

Services



May 2021

NOTE We are open now for in-church services, but please confirm on our website or Facebook page.

2nd	10:30am	Doreen Murgatroyd
9th Christian Aid Service	10:30am	Rev Sharon Gardner (Holy Communion)
	6:30pm	Sandhurst Churches Together service hosted by St Michael's Church
16th	10:30am	Karen Glossop
23rd	10:30am	Rev Soba Sinnathamby
30th	10:30am	Maggie Garton

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 May 2021



April—no April showers yet, lots of sun but very cold. The oak trees remain leafless, although others have buds and some have leaves.

The Minister writes...

Dear friends,
'*The Repair Shop*' or '*Saved and Remade*'?

I'm sure that many of you are, like me, a fan of BBC 1's *The Repair Shop*. There is such a feel-good factor in watching expert crafters lovingly and painstakingly restoring an item to its former glory. Often the back stories are very moving and seeing the joy on a person's face when their treasured possession is returned to them makes the programme very watchable. No wonder it has risen in popularity since its start in March 2017.

There is another more recent BBC programme, BBC 2 this time entitled, *Saved and Remade*. In some ways it is similar to *The Repair Shop*; in others very different from it. Here, too, owners part with their loved possessions, but these are treasures which are no longer used but too precious just to throw away. In this programme they are not restored but transformed by experts into contemporary and useful items.



Saved and Remade doesn't have the same nostalgic element as *The Repair Shop* but I wonder if it carries a message for us in the church?

Without question, the pandemic has been a challenging time for people. It's not just individuals or families who have been affected. We all know of businesses which have failed during these tough months and there have been many changes for churches, too. We have had to find new ways of worshipping and creative means of serving our communities. It would be a great shame if some of the newly acquired skills were to be lost or left unused.

As we come out of the pandemic, we need to be attentive to what God is calling us. There have been elements of worship, fellowship and mission which have been sorely missed and we cannot wait to restart. There are others, like Bible study and meetings, which have been delivered in a different way and have flourished. There are some things which we have had to lay down and we need to ask ourselves if perhaps the time has come to lay them down permanently.

Whilst no one would say the pandemic was a blessing, there have been lessons learned because of it and there have been blessings contained *within* it. As it says in Romans 8:28: *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him*. We have had time and opportunity to stop, to think, to pray. The time for change is ripe, some may say over-ripe. The Church as we know it is in decline. Not everywhere and not every church but certainly in the UK many traditional churches are struggling to survive (and by traditional, I'm not referring to the type of music sung!). I am sure we would all love for our church to be restored to its former glory a la *The Repair Shop* – but what if God is saying that what is needed is to be *Saved and Remade*?

So, I leave you with these questions:

What are the lessons that we, as a church, have learned from this last year?

What are the changes we are prepared to make?

What do we believe God might be saying to us as Sandhurst & Yateley Methodist Church?

How does he want to take us forward?

There will be opportunities to discuss these over the next couple of months but,

May 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 3/5/21 Sandra F and Mary A

w/c 24/5/21 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.

The Tuesday evening prayer group and bible study will continue to be on Zoom for now.

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84061192040?pwd=d1p0MlVXZDRlTFdpZTlZLzc0OEEdjdz09>
Meeting ID: 840 6119 2040. Password: 526263

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

May

2021

4th	7:30 pm 8:00 pm	Prayer Group Bible Study	Zoom Zoom
11th	7:30 pm 8:00 pm	Prayer Group Bible Study	Zoom Zoom
18th	7:30 pm 8:00 pm	Prayer Group Bible Study	Zoom Zoom
25th	7:30 pm 8:00 pm	Prayer Group Bible Study	Zoom Zoom

meanwhile, I would urge you to please pray about these questions, bring them before God and wait on his voice and seek his will.

With every blessing,
Sharon

General Church Meeting Sat. 8th May 10:30am by zoom

The General Church Meeting (AGM) was due to be held after the morning service on May 9th but we are not yet permitted to hold meetings in church.

Therefore it will be held via Zoom on **Saturday 8th May at 10.30am**. The agenda will be sent out this week and the Zoom link will be contained in it, as well as in next Sunday's notices.

Do please make a note of this and attend if you possibly can as it is at this meeting that we elect the stewards. assistant stewards and reps to Church Council for the coming year 21/22.

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.



Our Easter Cross after the Easter Day service.

What an expression of joy on our first in-church service for 2021!

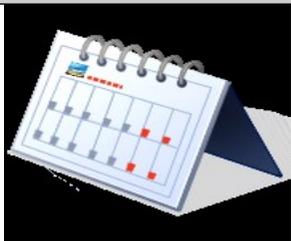
What's on?

May 2021

1st: virtual coffee morning
8th: General Church meeting by Zoom
9th: Christian Aid service and SCT service
15th: Club 15 'not the Christmas meal'

June 2021

27th: Film night recommences



Fund raising

Although we were unable to have an Easter Fair, we hope to be able to have a Summer Fair, probably not until July though. In the meantime, Margaret has been busy painting cards and has raised £90 so far. She always has some with her at church, so please do ask if you'd like some.
Sue



Christian Aid quiz—advance notice

The Christian Aid quiz will be on **Saturday October 2nd 2021**, organised by Sandhurst Churches Together, and hosted by St George's Church, Owlsmoor. Further details to follow.

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:

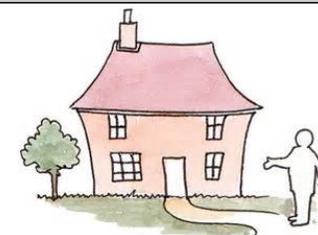
Robert Godden, 11 Scotland Hill, Sandhurst. 01252 872503

May meeting—TBA.

Wednesday House Group:

at Alison and Graham Fradgley's
3 Forbes Chase, Sandhurst

Zoom meeting Wednesday 5th May at 7:30pm, led by Diana.
Please contact Diana if you would like the details to join. Existing house group members will be contacted.



Newsletter and Website

newsletter@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk

Contributions for the **June** Newsletter (in church on Sunday 30th May 2021 or website) should be with Sue Truby by **Wednesday May 19th 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)

April Club 15—report

For its April event, Sandra Fogwill had organised a walk at Farnham Park. Lots of people thought this was a good venue for a sunny but fresh day and consequently it took a while to park. Dark clouds nearby threatened rain, but Michael's mobile phone assured us that we would stay dry. We set off on our walk from the car park in just one group, soon leaving the crowds behind. We took some quiet paths near the edge of the park accompanied by springtime sounds such as singing Blackcap and Chiffchaff, and for a while followed the Nadder Stream which joins the River Wey in Farnham. At 130 hectares, the park really is huge offering distant views of some of its further reaches. We returned via the rear wall of the historic castle and its impressive moat. Thank you, Sandra, for organising this walk and arranging fine weather, fresh air and good company.



Cheddar Methodist Church and their Easter Cross. The church even had solar panels on the roof.
I was pleased to see that the name of the street alongside was "Wesley Mews"

So—who do you recognise??? (from Network)



Film night—upcoming ... in June!!!!

Woohoo—Film night returns (assuming all government restriction plans are unchanged)
on the **4th Sunday in June—27th!**

Do join us for fellowship and pizza (we order in)

The film in June will be chosen by Sharon :-)



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.

Coming back to church services—some guidelines

- 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

Baby news

The twins were born on 5th April to our son Peter and his fiancée Mel. A little boy, Oakley and a little girl, Hartley, a new brother and sister for Harlow and Parker who are three and a half and two and a half years old respectively. So Peter and Mel have their hands very full!

When we moved here we only had two grandchildren but the family have been busy and the twins brings the number of grandchildren to 9. Family get-togethers once we're allowed them properly will be chaotic!

And here is a photo of the proud granddad, holding them when they were just two days old. Sharon



Upcoming Sandhurst Churches together services

May 9th - St Michael's—at St Michael's 1830pm

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.

Christian Aid Week



75th Birthday – Celebrations ?

This year Christian Aid should be celebrating its 75th birthday. It was created by UK Churches (including ours !) in the aftermath of World War

It has gone on to help millions of people in the poorest parts of the globe.

However, the threats caused by Climate Change & the Covid-19 Pandemic have meant celebrations are muted and the focus continues to be on fighting the Pandemic and stopping the climate crisis.

Christian Aid Week (**10th – 16th May**) is a main source of income for Christian Aid but the Pandemic has meant most local fund raising activities are delayed or cancelled. Hopefully our Church will be able to do a collection for Christian Aid at the service on May 9th but if you can't make this you can still donate...locally we have a Just Giving page with a somewhat long address :

https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/yateley-sandhurst?experiments=b2c_048_show_hide_fitness_data%2Cb2c_054_show_hide_fitness_totaliser&successType=StaticDonateButtonClick

or on the national Christian Aid website:

<https://donate.christianaid.org.uk/Donate/Step/1?ApproachCode=A002958>

and you can find out much more about Christian Aid Week below, including how the action from the Christian Aid partner, the Anglican Development Services Eastern, in Kenya is helping alleviate drought.

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week>

For any further information please contact
Wilf Hardy.....wjhscot@aol.com
07823 406908

***Date for Diary....Sandhurst Churches Together Quiz for Christian Aid
....Sat Oct 2nd.***

Greening our Church

In March another milestone was reached in helping make our Church more sustainable.

From June we will have a two year contract in place for Total to provide us with "green" electricity, that is, from wind, solar and hydro power.

Total are also now looking at whether we can upgrade our electric meters to the latest smart meters.

This may be a small step but it all helps in combating climate change.

Wilf Hardy

Club 15 May—picnic

May 15th is a Saturday so let's have a 'Not the Christmas Meal' (BYO) picnic outdoors somewhere! If there are more than 6 of us then we can gather in multiple groups.

We could meet at the Sandhurst rec (where there is Pistachios—no toilets because it's a Saturday) or we could drive down to Diana's in Highcliffe and meet at the grassy area above the beach.

If you're interested in going, please contact Sue T by May 8th to say:

1 which venue you'd prefer

2 what time you'd like to meet (am, lunch, pm, tea)

Thanks
Sue T

Vinyl Records Wanted

Thank you!

Dance Soul Rock Chart Disco Blues Reggae Punk

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

four houses from the "Rose and Crown" public house. An Annie Draper was listed as a servant in the house.

1883 An advertisement in the "Reading Mercury" offered for sale the stables and cowsheds plus surplus furniture from Martin's Villa.

1884 An advertisement for the sale of Martin's Villa with six acres of meadow land appeared in the "Reading Mercury" in March.

1885 The Russells moved into "Edgebarrow Hill". We think this could be the original name of Eagle House School as a newly built house and surgery was leased to Eagle House School of Wimbledon by Dr Russell in 1886.

1888 The Russells now living at Longdown Cottage, Crowthorne Road. We have been told that the Russells did not stay long in what is now Eagle House, the house which he had obviously put an enormous amount of money and thought into, because he bankrupted himself completing it! He was however determined to stay close by so he could admire the house from afar. We have still to find any documentary evidence to support this although it seems to be a logical explanation.

1889 The January edition of "The Building News" shows plans and an article detailing Eagle House, described simply as "A House in Sandhurst".

1891 In a Trade Directory he was listed as Dr James Russell M.C., C.S. England, Surgeon and Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator for Sandhurst District Easthampstead R.D.C.

1894 The first Sandhurst Parish Council formed with Dr Russell elected chairman.

1895 By this time the Russell Hall had been built in Scotland Hill. The "Reading Mercury" on the 14th September carried a report on the big opening ceremony. All those involved in the building of the hall were entertained to a supper. The hall was for the use of parish events. 1897 Listed as the owner of Hansford Cottage, Scotland Hill. John Bowles, a gardener listed as the occupier.

1897-98 The rateable value of Eagle House, was £1 3s 4d per annum.

1898 Living in Russell Hall. Paid rates of £1 4s. He still owned Eagle House and Longdown Cottage. 1901 Listed on the census as living at "The Cedars".

(McKernan Court now built on the site of where this house used to be). He lived there until 1922 when it was sold to the Mason family.

1905 He offered a piece of land to the Methodists so that they could build a chapel. During the building work he was treasurer of the fund. He laid the foundation stone on 11th October 1905 and the chapel was completed on the 2nd May 1906. Dr Russell was described as a very generous friend of the Methodists. He had loaned the Russell Hall for services whilst the chapel was being built. At the Methodist school, Dr Russell generously presented a silver medal to each scholar who had not missed a day at school that year. During his time as a doctor he travelled his rounds in a pony and trap but his colleague, Dr Metcalfe rode a bicycle.

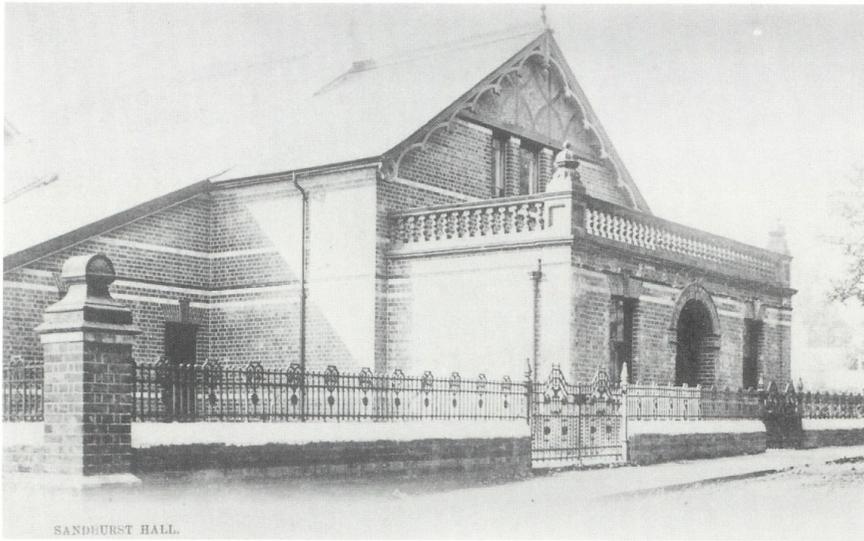
1922 He sold "The Cedars" and moved to "The Oaks", Handford Lane, Yateley where he lived with his wife until his death on February 11th.

1931. He was buried in the family vault at St Peters, Croydon. His wife died at Tonbridge in Kent in 1936 and is not buried in the same grave as her husband.

1931 He made a will which paid out money to the Public Trustees, Reading General Hospital, Frimley Cottage Hospital and Edwyn Close of Camberley, his solicitor, the effects being worth £12000.

In St Peter's Churchyard are inscriptions on monuments to Dr James Russell and John Russell – his father, but no mention is made of either of their wives.

In his life he was a member of the Odd Fellows Society and a member of the Border Lodge of Foresters. Mrs Russell was the first member of the Women's Lodge of Foresters of Crowthorne.



58. Russell Hall, Scotland Hill; postmark 21st July 1905. This hall was provided by Dr. Russell who lived and worked in Sandhurst. He was a strong supporter of the Methodist Church and the Russell Hall was built near the church and used for many years for social activities, but is now used as a warehouse in 1991. (Mr. C. Sinnott.)

THE OLD EAGLE HOUSE NEWLETTER – December 2005

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The Life of Doctor James Russell

James Russell was a prominent citizen in Sandhurst and he was responsible for building the house which is the focal point of the school. The school building was the first medical centre for Sandhurst. The following is a chronological list of events in James Russell's life

Born 16th December 1851 at Iden in Sussex, the son of a John and Henrietta Russell. A medical student at Aberdeen by 1873 he had M.B. and C.D. behind his name. By 1876 he also had an M.D. from Aberdeen College. We believe he met his wife, one Ellen Elizabeth Wardrope in Scotland as her initials are on a background of Scottish thistles on the crest around the front door at Eagle House School.

1878 He must have been appointed as medical officer to Easthampstead R. D. C. In that year his wife was down as paying 10 shillings voluntary rate to the church in the Sandhurst Churchwarden's accounts. The following year Dr Russell was down as paying the same amount.

1880 On the electoral register the Russells were listed as living at Martin's Villa, High St. Sandhurst. In the same year his Uncle James, a coal merchant in Croydon, died leaving £8000 in his will to his nephew – James Russell of Sandhurst.

1881 In the census returns of that year they were listed at Martin's Hall/Villa,

Crowthorne Foodbank



Current shortages -

Tinned carrots, Frey Bentos meat pies, tinned rice pudding, tinned custard, tomato ketchup, cup-a-soup, chocolate spread, pot noodles, long life milk, lunchbox snacks, share pack crisps. Handwash, kids toothbrushes, women's deodorant.

Note: the foodbank update their needs weekly here: [Crowthorne.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/](https://www.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, coffee, tea bags, rice, baby powder milk, soap, men's shaving gel, washing up liquid, shampoo and conditioner, bath and shower gel/wash. 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 Saturday 1st May 10.30 to 12

Why not join us for a virtual coffee morning on Saturday **1st May** 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=TWpoVkn1dThSY01IMkpHT1djWjJOUT09>

Meeting ID: **878 9601 9919**

Passcode: **393985**

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.

Mind you, this year it's been a bit more haphazard!

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:

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

Connect - Counselling Service, 11 Folesbury Road, Camberley, Surrey GU15 3TA
Tel: 01278 242111 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.

OPENING OF THE NEW HALL AT SANDHURST.

The new Hall which Dr. Russell commenced building a few months ago is now completed, and forms a handsome structure. It is brick built, the entrance being at the east end, with cloak rooms on either side, over which is a large balcony. The hall itself, which is 60 feet by 30 feet and 28 feet in height, is lighted by a lantern light 30 feet long with side lights to open for ventilation, and lighted at night by six of Ross Atkins' sunlight oil lamps of 100 candle power each. It is heated by hot water. On the south side is a refreshment room, a kitchen, and every convenience for serving a large dinner. On the north side are retiring rooms, &c. The platform occupies the west end, and there are plush seats to fit round the entire hall when used for a ball. The building was designed and built by Mr. G. James, of Sandhurst, and will seat 370 persons.

The opening of the hall was celebrated by Dr. and Mrs. Russell giving an invitation concert on Wednesday, about 400 persons being present. On either side in front of the platform were banks of choice flowers in pots, while tall palms filled the back ground; the end of the hall was tastefully draped, and beneath the Union Jack was the word "Welcome," and over the entrance door were the words "Long life and prosperity to you all."

Before the concert commenced Dr. Russell appeared upon the platform and was greeted with tremendous cheering. In the course of his address Dr. Russell said that there were people in the parish (though only very few in number), who imputed selfish motives to him (Dr. Russell) in building the Hall in which they were assembled, but he was quite sure there was no need for him to publicly assure his friends that these allegations were absolutely untrue. The hall was his private property and for the present it would be used as occasion might require. Ultimately it might become the People's Hall. His only wish was to see contentment and happiness among them, and "peace with honour."

During an interval in the programme Mr. R. Bunce proposed a vote of thanks to Dr. Russell, and this, amid much cheering, was seconded by the Rev. J. B. Algar. Dr. Russell briefly replied.

The Concert was a great success, and was opened by Mrs. Russell, who was much cheered when she appeared to sing "Robin Adair," for which she received an encore. Miss Maude Ballard also met with a cordial reception, and received an encore. A duet by Messrs. Alexander and Irving Gass was much applauded, as were also the excellent recitations by Mr. Arthur F. Knight. Not by any means the least attraction of the evening was Mr. Percy H. Kettley, the humourist, who was excellent, especially in "Master Tommy's First Appearance." Mr. F. Davis played the accompaniments on a Bechstein grand piano-forte, supplied by Mr. Thomas Waite, of Duke-street, Reading. At the conclusion of the concert Dr. and Mrs. Russell entertained the artistes and a few friends to supper, and subsequently all the men who had been employed in the building of the hall

Russell Hall then Liberta House now Russell Hall House and 2-8 Russell Hall Cottages

You may have noticed the building work going on in Scotland Hill.

We have agreed to let some of the workmen from the Liberta House project park in our church car park (Monday to Friday), displaying a laminated notice in their cars so that we can tell who they are. They have been told the combination for the car park barrier lock. This was seen to be a good neighbourly thing to do as Scotland Hill itself was getting very full of their parked cars, vans and trucks. The contractors are making a donation to church funds for this facility.

In 1895 the original Russell Hall was opened—left is an excerpt from the Reading Mercury.

Dr James Russell, who commissioned the hall, was also involved with Eagle House School and also was very generous to the Methodists, offering land for them to build the church as well as being involved in other ways. Next is an excerpt from the Old Eagle House newsletter from 2005.