

## Services—February 2024

# Services



### February 2024

4th	10:30 am	Rev Sharon Gardner (Holy Communion)
11th	10:30 am	Maggie Garton
	6:30 pm	SCT service at Sandhurst and Yateley Methodist church
18th	10:30 am	Charmaine Dinham
25th	10:30 am	Kim Tame

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](mailto:steward@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk)

**Hall hire:** [halls@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk](mailto:halls@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk)

**Babes and Tots:** [babestots@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk](mailto:babestots@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk)

**Weekly notices:** [notices@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk](mailto:notices@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk)

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

**Multimedia:** [multimedia@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk](mailto:multimedia@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk)

**Musicians:** [musicians@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk](mailto:musicians@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk)

**Website:** [siteadmin@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk](mailto:siteadmin@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk)

**Anything else:** [info@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk](mailto:info@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk)

# Sandhurst and Yateley Methodist Church February 2024



## The minister writes...

Dear friends,

I don't know if it's quite the done thing for a minister to admit that there are some passages in the Bible that they really don't like very much but I must confess to not being fond of Ecclesiastes! If the author *were* King Solomon (and scholars dispute this) then, despite his legendary wisdom, I can only say that he was in a bit of a glum place when he wrote it. The refrain, 'Meaningless! Meaningless!' (earlier translations have 'Vanity! Vanity!') appears repeatedly and is applied to everything: wisdom, folly, pleasure, toil, riches, advancement – everything *except* reverence for God and his commandments.

The most well-known passage is Chapter 3 and 'A time for everything.' I've always felt it stops a bit abruptly and that it needs rounding off (sorry, Solomon!). Nevertheless, having heard it read at a recent funeral, I was pondering on it and its message that there are seasons for everything. We certainly can't refute the truth in that. We see it in our own lives, don't we? Seasons of youth and vitality giving way to seasons of age and experience. Times of joy, counterbalanced by times of sadness. In the same month we can celebrate the birth of a long-awaited child and mourn the death of someone we love dearly. In our own church community there will be those enjoying a special birthday or anniversary and others travelling the long pathway of grief that leads ultimately to a place of healing.

The passage also speaks of a time to destroy and a time to build, a time to tear and a time to mend. It may be that we encounter times when it seems that everything we've previously enjoyed, maybe even taken for granted, has broken: dreams shattered or discarded, relationships becoming complicated or troubled, illness bringing adjustment and limitation. As we face difficult situations, perhaps it helps to remember that these too are seasons, hard whilst they last but in time we may rebuild, reconcile, heal – or perhaps start over.

The fleeting nature of our lives is something the book explores, its apparent message being that if life is good, enjoy it whilst you can, and if it isn't, don't worry because it will be over all too soon. I'm not sure how comforting I find



## Rotas February

### Flowers

#### February

4th	-
11th	-
18th	Diana M
25th	Robert

### Cleaning

w/c 5/2/24	Alison F and Alison B
w/c 26/2/24	Sandra F and Mary A

### Coffee

#### February

4th	Alison F and Cynthia R
11th	Cynthia R and Alison F
18th	Dawn O and Cynthia R
25th	Alison B and Sandra F

## 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 Needses 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  
Rejoice! (usually 1st 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.

Join Zoom Meeting  
[https://zoom.us/j/2799549300?](https://zoom.us/j/2799549300?pwd=YjVCazFHR0NwZE50OEhaRzhMdm13UT09)  
pwd=YjVCazFHR0NwZE50OEhaRzhMdm13UT09  
Meeting ID: 279 954 9300  
Passcode: 3v25BE

This is the same link for Stewards meetings and  
Church Council.

### February

### 2024

<b>6th</b>	2:30pm 7:45pm 8.00pm	Rejoice! Prayer group Bible study	Schoolroom Zoom
<b>13th</b>	7:30pm	Church Council	Zoom
<b>20th</b>	7:45pm 8.00pm	Prayer group Bible study—Lent study 1	Zoom
<b>27th</b>	7:45pm 8.00pm	Prayer group Bible study Lent study 2	Zoom

Evening Lent study by Zoom:

Tuesday 20th Feb	Lent 1
Tuesday 27th Feb	Lent 2
Tuesday 5th Mar	Lent 3
Tuesday 12th Mar	Lent 4
Tuesday 19th Mar	Lent 5—no meeting, so please join alternative group below
Tuesday 27th Mar	Lent 6

If Tuesdays aren't a good evening for you there are two other Lent groups:  
Thursday evening 7.30pm or Wednesday afternoon 2.30pm. Same Zoom link  
which appears in our weekly notices.

that! It *is* helpful to be reminded that we only have the present moment in which we can make a difference, so act now whilst we can, do good deeds, speak words of kindness. But the thought that it will be over all too soon....well, what can I say except that the author lived before Jesus Christ? He believed in God but had no concept of life beyond death. His words speak of judgement but not so much of mercy.

Perhaps if the writer of Ecclesiastes had lived 1,000 years later, he might have added something more to his 'A time for everything.' Excuse my audacity but indulge me for a moment.... *Perhaps* he might have added: 'a time to show mercy and a time to receive forgiveness,' 'a time to despair and a time to hope,' 'a time for the grave and a time for resurrection,' 'a time to be parted and a time to be reunited.'

If you were to write your own 'A time for everything' I wonder what **you** would include?

With every blessing,  
*Sharon*

## What's on?

### February

**6th:** Rejoice!

**11th:** SCT service at Sandhurst and Yateley Methodist Church

**13th:** Church council  
Shrove Tuesday

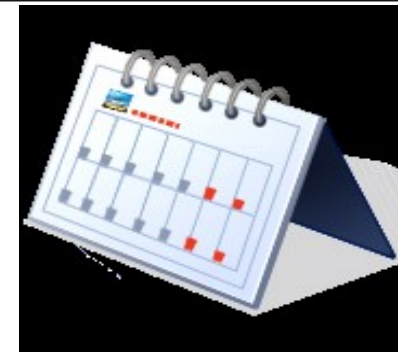
**14th:** Ash Wednesday

**17th:** Hymn sing at Crowthorne Methodist church

**20th:** Lent course starts

**22nd:** Community coffee morning,  
Thursday housegroup (at Lesley's)

**25th:** Film night



## Christingle messy church



Around 36 children and their families came to the Christingle messy church. The children and parents were involved in Christmas crafts, colouring and making Christmas snacks of angels and baby in a manger.

They also made Christingle oranges with candles which they took into church where they were lit following the Christmas story.

## Your Church needs you! - Calling all previous stewards and assistants!

We currently have a lot of gaps in the weekly Stewarding and Assistant Stewarding Duty rotas. If you are able to do any duties then please email me and I will give you the dates which need to be filled.

Please let me know what you can do - even if you can only open up on the day and be the Steward/Assistant, I am always happy to liaise with the preacher. The Team will even pay the offering into the Post Office, if necessary!

So please do consider doing a duty or two, it would really take the pressure off the current Stewarding Team.

Many thanks in advance for your help - Keg

## Flower rota

For various reasons, there are a number of Sundays available on the flower rota. If you would like to take one of these, please let me know.



You can buy a bunch of flowers to put in a vase, or flowers for an arrangement (Oasis or an alternative is always available), or make a donation (via the stewards) and one of the silk flower arrangements will be used that Sunday.

Gil F has some tips:

It is tradition in our church not to use just red and white flowers—if you particularly want to use red and white, then please also include flowers of another colour.

Because the wall behind the communion table is black, some flower colours (dark red, blue or purple—receding) don't show up very well unless very carefully surrounded by light foliage. It is probably better to use white, yellow, orange, pink—bright (advancing) colours.

It is lovely to be able to give flowers to members of the congregation—a ministry of flowers.

Dates available:

March—31st (Easter Sunday), April—7th, 28th, August—11th

Thanks. Sue T

**Please note:**

**Please use the front entrance to the church when arranging the flowers if there are any hirers in the hall. The oasis and pot will be either in church or in the vestry once flowers have been distributed on a Sunday. Thanks**

## Minister

**Rev Sharon Gardner**

minister@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk  
01344 774967

## Church Stewards—steward@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk

Karen Glossop	07934 144322	Senior Steward
Sandra Wooledge	01344 775177	
Heather Brown	01252 655419	
Matt Rowell	07890 424767	

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

**Thursday House Group (third Thursday)—  
at 15:00**

Robert Godden, 11 Scotland Hill, Sandhurst. 01252 872503

Next meeting

**Thursday February 22nd at Lesley's—  
not Robert's**



## Newsletter and Website

newsletter@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk

Contributions for the **March 2024** Newsletter (in church on Sunday 25th February or website) should be with Sue Truby by **Sunday February 11th 2024**

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)

## Lent: 'The Rest is Worship'

This year during Lent we will be using the Engage Worship resource '*The Rest is Worship*.'

So often in our Christian lives we focus on 'doing.' It may be some of the myriad activities associated with church life, or helping in the community, or supporting a charity, or demands of work or childcare (including grandchild-care) or looking after older relatives. The list seems endless. There are so many claims on our time that it is difficult to stop and just 'be.'

Yet that is the invitation which Jesus extends to all who would follow him: "*Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.*" (Matt. 11:28).

Doesn't that sound wonderful?!

But, I hear you ask, what about all those 'jobs' – don't they still need doing? Well, yes, they do and they will get done but none of us can run on empty and that applies to our spiritual selves just as much as – if not more so - than any other aspect of our lives.

Remember Jesus visiting the home of Martha and Mary?

*Martha had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"*

*"Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."* (Luke 10: 38 – 42)

So this Lent, we are invited to discover for ourselves that rest can be worship too.

Our services during this time will follow the weekly themes as will our Lent study. We will hold that on a Tuesday evening by Zoom\* and you are warmly invited to join us, whether you usually do or not. We begin at 7.45pm with a brief time of prayer and then explore the study, finishing by 9pm at the latest.

To give you a flavour, these are the weekly themes:

Week 1	The God who rests	Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> Feb
Week 2	Jesus' invitation to rest	Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> Feb
Week 3	Putting aside distractions	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> March
Week 4	Silence and stillness	Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> March
Week 5	Simple prayer	NO Tues meeting so please join alternative group
Week 6	Resisting the powers	Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> March

To accompany this Lenten journey there is a 40-day devotional – which will inform our study but can also be used for personal devotions. I have obtained a group licence and can let you have a pdf for free or, if you need it in printed format, there is a cost of £5 to cover printing/paper.

\*If Tuesdays aren't a good evening for you there are two other Lent groups: Thursday evening 7.30pm or Wednesday afternoon 2.30pm. Same Zoom link which appears in our weekly notices.

## Wednesday evening house group

Sadly our housegroup which met on a Wednesday evening will be cancelled for the foreseeable future.

I would like to thank Graham and Alison for gladly welcoming us into their home over the last few years and kindly providing us with refreshments.

We have had many a good discussion, studying God's work, sharing our thoughts, enjoying challenges and even having fun!

Thank you again Graham and Alison with my regrets but very best wishes  
Keg

## Sandhurst Churches together



### 11th February Sandhurst and Yateley Methodist Church

10th March St Michael's (Mothering Sunday)  
29th March Good Friday Act of Witness at The Meadows from 12:45-1:15  
14th April Sandhurst Baptist church

## Toddler group



Toddler group continues to flourish with up to 30 children plus parents, grandparents and even great grandparents.

They really enjoy the arts and crafts, play dough and pasta table - the things that make the most mess!

As you can see from the photo it is not only the children that enjoys these activities. I certainly enjoy my weekly play dough therapy!

Alison B

## Babes and Tots

Wednesday mornings 10:30 to 12:00

If you know of anyone in the community with a young baby or child, please invite them to attend.

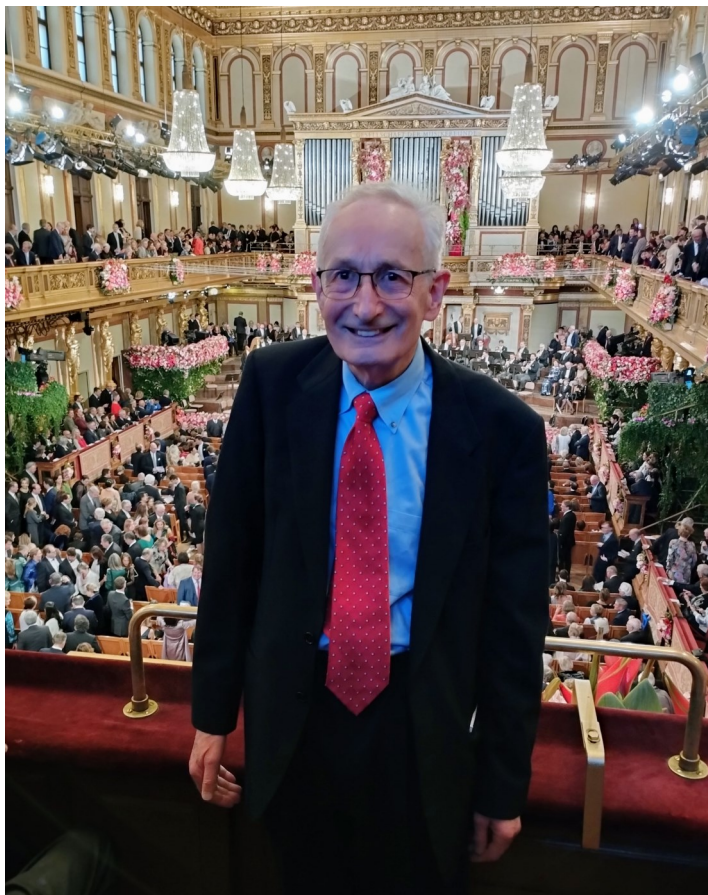


Small friendly group, all welcome, mums, dads, grandparents.

Book via the FaceBook page please: Babes and Tots—Sandhurst.



## The New Year's Day concert in Vienna



The New Year's Day Concert in Vienna has been on my bucket list ever since a school friend introduced me to Viennese music at the Royal Festival Hall over 60 years ago. The chance of winning a ticket in the ballot is very slim so perhaps this (probably) once-in-a-lifetime experience, after many unsuccessful attempts, of being lucky for the 2024 concert could be regarded as a 'miracle'?

The concert is held at the Musikverein - the home of the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra - in the heart of a seasonally vibrant Vienna. Just walking into the

hall takes one's breath away! It is a wonderful venue - also called the Golden Hall - bedecked for this annual event with beautiful flowers. The acoustics rank with the best in the World.

The concert consists of waltzes, marches, galops, polkas, overtures and quadrilles - mainly by the Strauss family. Before the second encore - the Blue Danube Waltz - the conductor gives a message of hope to the World - precisely what is conveyed in the Scriptures. Finally we have the Radetzky March during which the conductor - Christian Thielemann this year - directs the audience when and when not to clap.

The coverage of the concert on television (to over 90 countries) is excellent, but to actually be present in the Musikverein on New Year's morning hearing such beautifully played, uplifting music is truly magic.

Mike B

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College Town, GU47 0QA

**01276 33241**



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

## Prayers for the Lenten period (methodist.org.uk)

Lord, as we enter Lent, help us to draw near to you in praise, stripping away all that distracts us from worship.  
Amen

As Jesus resisted temptation by the devil in the wilderness, help us reflect on his faithfulness to god, his rejection of worldly values and hold these thoughts in our hearts throughout Lent and beyond.  
Amen

Jesus, you prayed and fasted. As you disciple teach me about spiritual discipline in my relationship with you.  
Amen.

Lord may Lent be a time of inward searching that makes me more able ot look with compassion at the needs of the world.  
Amen.

Thank you Lord for desert experiences, when being confronted with myself makes me realise my need of you.  
Amen

Lord, you've guided us through the difficult days of Lent, encouraging us along the way. We pray as we move towards the darkest day, that you'll not forsake us but6 remind us of our Saviour's ultimate give and promise of new, abundant, eternal life for all who believe and trust in him, your precious son, Jesus.  
Amen

## 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 T about the words you'd like and they will provide the plaque for free! Doug W has been attaching them to the seats once done. Thanks Doug!  
A donation to the church of £50 is suggested but not required.

## Prayers for Ukraine, Israel and Palestine

Loving God, we pray for peace in Ukraine.  
Help keep people safe and protect them from being hurt.  
Please care for children separated from their families,  
Please help people who have had to leave their homes.  
We pray for love and peace, everywhere.  
In the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.  
Amen

Loving God  
I see the news and I am afraid  
Violence is spiralling out of control.  
I don't know what to think or feel.  
The temptation to fall into  
Hatred, or  
Despair  
Feels very close at hand.  
Help me to remember  
That nothing in all creation  
Can separate me from your love  
That I know I Jesus.  
May your perfect love for me  
Cast out my fear  
And free me to discern  
What it mine to do  
Amidst the chaos of this suffering world  
Amen

The **Methodist Church** 

## Hymn sing at Crowthorne Methodist Church



**Whitechapel  
Mission**

**Saturday 17th February 2024**  
3pm to approximately 5:30pm.

Fun and fund raising event for the Whitechapel mission, serving the street people of London.

Free admission. Donations accepted.  
For more information contact Keg.

## Christmas donations to the Yateley community pantry

The Yateley Community Pantry was our nominated charity to receive the donations given via the Christmas card collection, retiring collection during the Carol Service and Christmas Eve service, together with the offering from Christmas Day.

The donations amounted to £150, which is amazing and thank you all so much for your generosity.



Yateley Community Pantry  
Yateley Industries for the Disabled Ltd.  
Mill Lane, Yateley, Hants, GU46 7TF  
Tel: 01252 872337

Dear Sandhurst & Yateley Methodist Church,

I would like to thank you and your congregation for the wonderful donation, which will go towards getting some more supplies for the pantry.

We will continue to work hard for our local community

Best wishes

Jean Poolton  
Community Pantry Manager

## Christmas service at Fourways House

On Wednesday 13th December several of our congregation together with Sharon went to Fourways Residential Home and held a short carol service. The ambience was just right, there were several fully decorated Christmas trees in the sitting room and conservatory with numerous hand coloured decorations hanging from windowsills as well as a Father and Mother Christmas on the mantlepiece. Father Christmas spookily kept turning his head and looking at us!!

Our informal service was lead by Rev Sharon and consisted of traditional Bible readings from the Nativity Story and singing Christmas Carols. We took song-sheets with us but amazingly it wasn't long before the ladies were singing without even looking at the words.

The staff very kindly provided refreshments after the service and it was lovely to chat to the residents. One lady told me that they had a full cooked breakfast on Christmas morning and that she loved black pudding - trouble was she was now a vegetarian!

Our congregation had kindly donated 40 selection boxes and boxes of chocolates which we wrapped and took to Fourways. We had enough to give each resident and each member of staff a little gift from SYMC with all our love and good wishes for a very Happy Christmas. Funny enough there was only one gentleman in the sitting room and he was the only one to open his gift and start scoffing his chocolate - I don't know about you, but I would be with him on that! Thank you to everyone who donated selection/chocolate - everyone was delighted and we were the ones who had the pleasure of seeing the faces of those who received their presents. So until next year .....

## Our Church Hall availability

Please keep in mind the following availability of our beautifully redecorated, light and airy church hall should you, or someone you know, be looking for such a facility.

Regular hirers as well as occasional use for children's parties or meetings always considered and most welcome.

**Mondays**—11am to 4pm

**Tuesdays**—all day

**Wednesdays**—4pm to 6:30pm

**Thursdays**—fully booked at present

**Fridays**—11am through to midnight

**Saturdays**—1pm through to midnight

To see our charges (plus more photographs and measurements) please click <https://sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk/blog/hall-hire/>

### Regular bookings

£19.50 per hour with the use of the kitchen

£18.50 per hour without use of the kitchen

£17.50 per hour for charities with use of the kitchen

### Single one-off events

£22.50 per hour for parties etc with the use of the kitchen)

£20.00 per hour for charities

Please make contact via [halls@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk](mailto:halls@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk)





## Wedding of Hannah Buckle and James Lewis

On Wednesday 20th December at 2 pm we had the privilege of holding the wedding of Hannah Buckle to James Lewis.

Hannah and her brother Toby used to come to our church with their parents many years ago, during the time that Phil Thomas was our Minister.

Hannah loved her association with our church and wanted her wedding to take place here. At their family's request, Phil Thomas came to take part in the wedding ceremony alongside Sharon, who was happy to accommodate this.

Phil had undertaken the wedding service for Hannah's Mum and Dad years before and they had always kept in touch with him. As it turned out, poor Sharon had nearly lost her voice and so Phil was happy to help with even more of the service. Phil's talk was humorous and he



had everyone laughing.

The service was relaxed and enjoyable. Everyone looked lovely in their wedding finery. Hannah looked beautiful in her magnificent dress with its long train. Her bridesmaids wore a light blueish green, so pretty. The orders of Service were the same colour as the bridesmaids dresses with lots of sparkle! The Celicia Singers from St Michael's sang several songs at the wedding and Hannah exited from the church to the Singers singing 'The Lion Sleeps Tonight!'. What a wonderful occasion to take place at our church and for the bride to hold our church so dear in her memory that she chose to hold her wedding here.

I have to say, Phil and Sharon made a brilliant team!

Keg



## Recycling for Good Causes

In the vestibule you will notice a largish box which advertises 'Recycling for good causes.'

Please donate your unwanted items from the following list. There are some leaflets available which tell you about what can be recycled but basically it is: Unwanted jewellery - including damaged items and costume jewellery and watches

Coins and currency - any age and UK and foreign both acceptable

Mobile phones, cameras, video cameras and gadgets including ipods, tablets but NOT laptops.

Stamps - single, loose and presentation packs.

The box contains a sack. When the sack is full Recycling for Good Causes will collect it and the church will receive 75% of the proceeds from the sale of the contents within about 8 weeks of collection. (As a guide, at High Cross they received a cheque for £80 - so it is definitely worth doing this!)

Thanks,  
**Sharon**

## Reminder of more recycling

And of course you can still recycle medication blister packs, Pringle tubes, bras (any condition), pens (working or not) and Ferrero Rocher boxes (probably empty!) in the other box in the foyer!

Thanks Sue T

## Coffee mornings

Coffee Mornings every **fourth 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. These coffee mornings are now up and running again.

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

**Coffee morning in February 2024 will be on Thursday 22nd**



## Crowthorne Foodbank

Current shortages -

**Tea bags (80), squash (1 litre bottles), Fray Bentos Pies, cartons of juice, packets of noodles (for 1), instant pasta packs (for 1), tinned stewed meat, porridge, custard, sponge puddings**

**Toilet roll, washing up liquid, bin bags**

**Shampoo, conditioner, children's toothbrushes (single)**

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

Thank you so much for your ongoing support.

Note—they currently have plenty of coffee, cereal, beans, big packs of pasta.

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

E.g.

Tesco, The Meadows—please only place Tesco bought items in these bins.  
Co-op, the High Street, Crowthorne.

## Rejoice!

From 2.30- 3.30 on the 1st Tuesday of the month a small group of us meet to sing old favourite hymns, learn new ones and share fellowship.

If you miss singing hymns that perhaps you loved years ago or are keen to familiarise yourself with different ones you would be very welcome.

Sometimes there is also a chance to select what will be sung at services either when Sharon is preaching or when we have a Local Arrangement.

The next Rejoice! will be on

**6th February 2024**



# Vinyl Records Wanted

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

## Christmas carols at the Meadows

On Monday 11th December a very small group of folk from the Sandhurst Churches Together met to sing Christmas Carols at the Meadows. In fact, to start with we had no keyboard as John Castle's car had a puncture and he had to use his wife's car. This didn't dampen our enthusiasm - we prayed together and started the service, all five of us singing at the top of our voices! Mike, the Youth worker from St Michaels handed out some quality sweets! and also lots of tracts and literature giving the real reason for Christmas and the Christian message of hope.

Our service consisted of a traditional nativity reading, followed by a prayer and then a Christmas Carol. Once John arrived he quickly set up his keyboard and then we had both music and a microphone. People were busy and not many stopped to listen but Mike was successful in handing out most of the sweets (only a few left from several tins), with us tucking into the rest! He had also successfully handed out all of the literature.

It was a very cold evening but I think we were warmly received, people smiled as they walked passed. All we can do is pray that they would be blessed by hearing the service, and the reading the material they received, and encouraged to think more that Jesus is the Reason for the Season. We'll do it all again next year - maybe you would like to join us - just make sure you bring your gloves and hat!

Keg

## Film night

The next Film night is on the **4th Sunday - February 25th**

and this month will be held at the Manse, 6 The Chase,  
Crowthorne, RG45 6HT

Do join us for fellowship and pizza at around 18:30.

