Services—March 2024



Services

March 2024

3rd 10:30 am Rev Sharon Gardner (Holy communion) 10th (Mothering Sunday) 10:30 am Rev Catherine Bowstead Sandhurst Churches Together service at 6:30 pm St Michael's 17th 10:30 am Mike Bowstead 24th (Palm Sunday) 10:30 am **Rev Soba Sinnathamby** 29th (Good Friday) 10:30 am Maggie Garton Rev Sharon Gardner (Holy Communion) 31st (Easter Sunday) 10:30 am

> 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@sandhurstyatelelymethodist.org.uk

Hall hire: halls@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk

Babes and Tots: babestots@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



The minister writes...

Dear friends,

Here we are in the season of Lent and our journey towards Easter has begun. Just as with any journey, the joy of arrival at the destination is enriched by the means of getting there. Many years ago, when I climbed Mount Snowdon with a friend, there was a real 'Wow!' about reaching the summit. The view at the top could only be alimpsed between the clouds that had come down out of nowhere but that took *nothing* away from our sense of achievement. The hard work of getting there and the encounters along the way were as important as the moment of touching the summit stone or receiving our certificates to prove we had made it.

So it is on our Lenten journey. It probably feels like a well-trodden one to you but therein lies the danger of thinking it doesn't much matter. If we are not careful we can hear the

familiar Lent readings: the temptation of Jesus, his overturning of the tables in the temple, his prediction of his death, his triumphal entry into Jerusalem, his Passion, the Last Supper, his arrest and false trial and find ourselves at Good Friday and his crucifixion almost without noticing how we got there.

This year our Lent study is entitled 'The Rest is Worship' and it invites us to take time just to *be* with God. Not to rush about *doing*, but allow ourselves simply to rest in his presence. It explores ways we can help that happen, but you don't have to be following the study to find your own way of making time for God. Be intentional about it. Be present in the moment and open to what is going on all around you. Don't fill the precious space with words (not even spoken prayer!) but just invite God into the stillness and let him fill it.

One quote in the study book talks about 'sacred rest' and thinks about the origins of Sabbath, how it was a weekly day of rest and delight in God. These days, in our society and even in our church life, it seems the practice of Sabbath rest is seldom observed. But whilst that may have become normal for us, it is not what God intended or what he wants for us. So this Lent, do try to take that rest, find that time, and simply *be.* And let God enrich your Lenten journey.

With every blessing,

Sharon

Rotas March

Flowers

March

3rd Marian L
10th (Mothering Sunday) Wendy H
17th Mary A
24th Alison F
31st (Easter Sunday) -

Cleaning

w/c 18/3/24 Sandra W and Wendy H

Coffee

March

3rd	Cynthia R and Margaret H
10th	Joan T and Sandra W
17th	Alison F and Cynthia R
24th	Cynthia R and Alison F
31st	Dawn O and Cynthia R

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 Rejoice! (usually 1st Tuesday)

Please ioin 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?

pwd=YjVCazFHR0NwZE50OEhaRzhMdm13UT09 Meeting ID: 279 954 9300

Passcode: 3v25BE

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

March 2024 5th 2:30pm Schoolroom Rejoice! 7:45pm Prayer group Zoom 8.00pm Bible study—Lent study 3 7:45pm **12th** Prayer group Zoom Bible study-Lent study 4 8.00pm Stewards' meeting 19th 7:30 pm Zoom Bible study—Lent study 5 ioin alternative group below **26th** 7:45pm Prayer group Zoom 8.00pm Bible study—Lent study 6

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

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What's on?

March

5th: Rejoice!, Lent course 3

9th: Messy Mothers Day, A Night at the Movies

10th: SCT service At St Michael's

12th: Lent course 4 **19th:** Stewards meeting

20th: Easter service at Fourways **21st:** Thursday housegroup

24th: Palm Sunday, Film night, Stainer's Crucifix-

26th: Lent course 6

28th: Coffee morning, Maundy Thursday supper

and service

29th: Good Friday service, Good Friday Act of Witness at The Meadows

31st: Easter Sunday service

April

7th: General church meeting

Hymn sing for the Whitechapel Mission

Crowthorne Methodist Church hosted a 'Hymn Sing' event on 17th February in aid of the Whitechapel Mission in London. Each of the thirty hymns was chosen in advance by churchgoers from within our Circuit.

The afternoon was wonderfully uplifting. A big thank you must go to Maggy Garton for putting together the programme - no mean feat in itself - and for providing us with so many fascinating facts and anecdotes about the words and music of each hymn. Thanks also go to Crowthorne MC for playing the music, projecting the hymns on the screen, the most superb tea and overall exceptional hospitality. Mike B

I've just spoken to Maggy - total raised £700 amounting to £875 with gift aid. This includes the donation from our church of £77.50. Kea

Sandhurst Churches together



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

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
 07710 066210

 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. 07543 800921

Next meeting

Thursday March 21st at Robert's



Newsletter and Website

newsletter@s and hursty at eley method is t. or g.uk

Contributions for the **April 2024** Newsletter (in church on Sunday 24th March or website) should be with Sue Truby by **Wednesday March 20th 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 20th Feb
Week 2 Jesus' invitation to rest Tuesday 27th Feb
Week 3 Putting aside distractions Tuesday 5th March
Week 4 Silence and stillness Tuesday 12th March

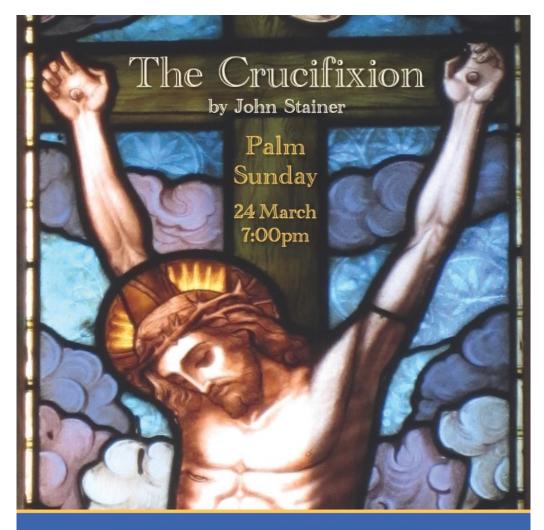
Week 5 Simple prayer NO Tues meeting so please join alterna-

tive group

Week 6 Resisting the powers Tuesday 26th 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.



ALL WELCOME • ADMISSION FREE

Refreshments served from 6:15pm Retiring Collection in aid of St Michael's Lent Appeal

St Michael's Church Choir and Friends Tenor: John Castle • Bass: Nick Allen • Organ: Jane Palmer

St Michael and All Angels Church Lower Church Road, Sandhurst, Berkshire. GU47 8HN

Sabbatical

The word 'Sabbath' lies at the root of the word 'sabbatical' and in the 19th century it was used by universities to denote a period of study leave for their academic staff, originally every seven years. Later, other professions and occupations embraced the practice as a means of vocational development and refreshment. Of course *we* associate the term with the time that is granted to ministers and deacons as a period of release from the regular duties of their appointment, in addition to normal holidays, for the purpose of pursuing an approved programme of study, research, work or experience.

As I am now in my seventh year of ministry I am required to take a three-month sabbatical. It is a tremendous privilege to be given this time, one that I am only too aware that few people in our congregation will have had a similar opportunity to experience. I am very grateful for that privilege, not least because I know that it places extra burdens on others in my absence. I do want to stress though that it is not a holiday in the usual understanding of that word! Obviously within those three months there will be space to defuse and relax so I can return refreshed and renewed but, as with other ministers when they have taken their sabbaticals, I have been expected to develop a programme so that the time might be both 'restorative and formative.' This is how the Methodist Church describes it:

'Restoratively, it should help you (re-)connect with your vision and sense of vocation and gather back to yourself those parts of yourself that can get lost in your work, such as your sense of humour... ability to get angry... ability to ask for help... ability to preserve space for yourself... ability to think straight... ability to connect with your own feelings. Formatively, your sabbatical should help you connect your vision and theology with your practice of ministry and enable you to grow more nearly into the minister God is calling you to be.

For my sabbatical I am exploring creativity through art and how it can be used to enhance worship, deepen personal and corporate spirituality and be a means of helping the church engage with the wider community.

To that end I have enrolled in some art workshops (using different mediums), I shall attend some exhibitions, including the Methodist Modern Art exhibition. I will be going on two residential retreats to explore art and creativity linked with faith and two or three reflective days. These last are not art-based but simply allow time to be still with God.

Beyond that I am keeping things open-ended, partly so I can respond to any new opportunities that arise as a result of what I learn and experience, and partly so I don't overfill my time and lose the benefit of having that restorative space. I also want to be able to spend some quality time with Mike. My sabbatical is from 15th April – 15th July. My last service with you will be on

Easter Sunday and until then I shall be around just as much as usual. I look forward to being able to share with you some of the fruits of the sabbatical on my return.

During my time away, the stewards are your first port of call and they can contact Catherine, Soba or Mike Thomason should there be a pastoral emergency.

Sharon

Camberley & District funeral directors

- 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

Link to Hope Shoe Box Appeal 2023

I am sorry this thank you for your Link to Hope contributions is so late again but it completely slipped my mind this time because I have not been well.

Thank you for the Shoé Boxes you filled for Eastern European Families and the Elderly this year. There were only 9 boxes as well as donations on line for another 3 boxes. In additions there were a lot of cash donations totalling at least £80.00. This was more than last year on both counts. Our contact in Ascot is always very grateful as this money can be used for other projects that they have in Eastern Europe.

No personal details are passed on as all gift aid forms are removed.

Thank you for all your contributions for this – we will endeavour to do better next Christmas! I will be reminding everyone that one of the countries is Ukraine.

Alison Fradgley

Easter Service at Fourways

On Wednesday **20th March**, 2:30pm, we will be holding an Easter service at Fourways.

Please do come along—the more the merrier.

Donations of Easter eggs for the residents and staff are welcome. Please watch out for more details of this in the notices.

Film night

The next Film night is on the **3rd Sunday this month** - **March 17th**

and this month will be held in the church

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



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.

The Whitechapel Mission



The Whitechapel Mission has been serving the homeless and marginalised since 1876 — including a day centre, skills training and career advice, activity programmes and specialist support for complex

needs. By encouraging each person to address the issues which caused their homelessness, they help them to gain the skills and confidence to make lasting changes in their lives.

They believe everyone deserves a chance, regardless of their background, race or religion. They are open to all, without exception.

Every day of the year, they welcome the weary faces of men and women facing despair. Many have tried surviving on the streets. Others are encountering homelessness for the first time after losing jobs or facing personal crises. Hundreds of people literally feel that they have nowhere else to turn for help. But through your gifts, they are there for them in a time of need, and they do this without public funding.

They offer a Day Centre which is open 365 days of the year, opening their doors at exactly 6 am and are open to anybody who walks in, without exception.

A free breakfast is served from 8 am each and every morning of the year offers a large choice from cereals to a full English. Over 300 breakfasts are provided each day.



Showers are available Monday to Friday from 7 am until 10 pm, with fresh clothing available every day. They operate one of the largest clothing stores in the UK, with van loads of clothing arriving every week from supporters all over the country.

They have advice services to encourage and assist people regardless of background, to improve their lives with pointers to other services such as Street Link.



Connecting rough sleepers to local services 0300 500 0914 www.streetlink.org.uk



Computers are available to improve lives, by equipping people with the skills to sustain tenancies, gain employment and integrate into the wider community.

We at SYMC have supported this mission in previous years by donating towels and new underwear together with hotel toiletries, giving them to Maggy and Colin to take each year. However nowadays they can only go to London by train and take the hotel toiletries.

Maggy preached at SYMC on 11^{th} February and we had a retiring collection for the Whitechapel Mission, raising an amazing £77.50. There was also a Hymn Sing at Crowthorne Methodist Church on 17^{th} February which also raised £700 with gift aid raising that to £875.

Thank you so much for all your kind donations, whether toiletries or money it makes a huge difference to people who have absolutely nothing.

Keg

Maundy Supper

7pm Thursday 28th March.

We are hosting the Maundy Supper, Service and Communion this year and Crowthorne Methodist Church will be joining us.

We will need to know who would like to come as we need numbers for catering. We will be offering a cheese or ham supper. There will be a list on the hatch during refreshments so please make sure you put your name down or let Keg know via email.

Keg

Work Party—Car Park 2024

We would like to organise a Work Party to cut back and tidy the trees and shrubs along the edge of the Car Park where the lamp post is situated.

After discussing this with Heather, she has contacted Robert about possible dates when they are available to work together. We will announce the date when they have made a decision **but** they will need help so if anyone can assist it would be very much appreciated. Hopefully, this will be in March and may be a weekday.

I will let you know the date as soon as possible.

Alison Fradgley

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—11am to 6pm and 8pm to midnight
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://sandhurstvateleymethodist.org.uk/blog/hall-hire/

Regular bookings

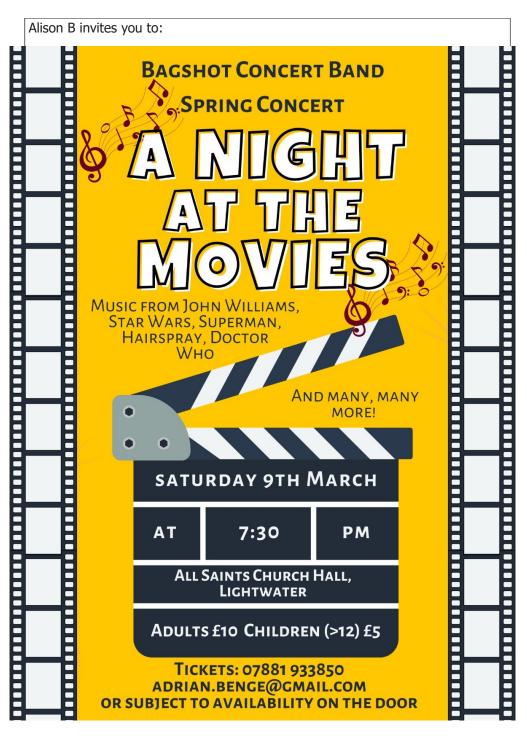
£19.50 per hour with the use of the kitchen £18.50 per hour without use of the kitchen £17.50 per hour for charities with use of the kitchen

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





MESSY MOTHERS DAY







SATURDAY 9th MARCH
3 — 4.30 pm
Crafts, Painting, Stories,
And Music

Come and join us!!

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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 March 2024 will be on Thursday 28th



Crowthorne Foodbank

Current shortages -

Fray Bentos pies, cartons of juice, packets of noodles (for 1), instant pasta packs (for 1), tinned stewed meat, sponge puddings, long life milk, tins of meatballs, tins of hotdogs

Toilet roll, washing up liquid, anti bacterial spray, bars of soap



Shampoo, conditioner, children's toothbrushes (single)

Note: the foodbank update their needs weekly here: 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 ei-

ther when Sharon is preaching or when we have a Local Arrangement.

The next Rejoice! will be on

5th March 2024