

# Sandhurst and Yateley Methodist Church April 2026 newsletter



## The Minister writes...



Fra Angelico's Raising of Hell a.k.a. The Harrowing of Hell, or Christ in Limbo, is one of the frescoes painted by Fra Angelico (and his assistants) between 1437-1446 for the monastery of San Marco in Florence, located in one of the monks' cells. (Painting is in the public domain)

Dear friends,

With Easter so near the beginning of April, it seems timely to reflect on the last few days of Holy Week. The events of Maundy Thursday, the Last Supper and the agonised prayer in Gethsemane move inexorably into Good Friday. There is no time for Jesus to rest or steel himself for what is to come. The betrayal of Judas is followed by an armed arrest and the desertion of his friends. As the shameful, unjust trial takes place, Peter denies him – just as Jesus prophesied. Christ's appearance before Pilate, the jeers of an angry, stirred-up mob lead to Golgotha and his crucifixion.

All this we have read or heard so many times over the years. Although the very familiarity of the Passion narrative may lessen the impact of its words, our reflection over those days, the readings and the hauntingly sad hymns keep our hearts focused on the sacrifice Jesus made for the sake of humanity – for all our sakes. We are sombre but, always, in the back of our minds we know this is not where the story ends and any sadness we feel soon gives way to the hope and joy of Resurrection.

It isn't part of our usual tradition to think much about the Saturday that falls between Good Friday and Easter Sunday. More often it's an overlooked day. We carry on with our domestic preparations for Easter Day itself, grateful perhaps for the few extra hours it lends us.

In the Catholic tradition though this is Holy Saturday. It is a day of silence, of prayer, and of waiting, thinking of Jesus in the tomb. It is a day for identifying oneself with the grief and loss of the disciples. It is a bridging time.

Some also hold the belief that this time between his death and resurrection was a time when Jesus went down into hell to free the souls of the faithful dead. Whilst there are no specific Bible verses that say Jesus descended into hell, it is hinted at in 1 Peter 3: 19 (preaching to imprisoned spirits), Acts 2: 27 (not abandoning his soul to Hades) and Ephesians 4:9 which argues that if Jesus ascended he must first have descended. And it is there in the Apostles Creed which declares that Jesus 'descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven.'

This 'harrowing of hell,' as it is often described, has captured the imaginations of many artists over the years including Fra Angelico (see the picture left). 'Harrowing' used here portrays the concept of something being broken up and we see a triumphant Jesus breaking apart the defences of hell in an act of victorious liberation.



I wonder what you think about this tradition and if knowing of it now causes you to think differently, even in a small way, about that in-between day of Saturday?

Whatever your thoughts, I hope that you may feel led

to spend some of that day in quiet prayer, to resist the busyness that might otherwise occupy your time and so prepare yourself spiritually for Easter that its joy may be undiluted. He is risen! Hallelujah!



With every blessing,

Sharon

Descent to Hell,

Painted by Duccio di Buoninsegna in 1308-11  
(in public domain)

## What's on?

### March

**29<sup>th</sup>:** Palm Sunday Music and Meditation evening at St Michael's  
**31<sup>st</sup>:** S.A.L.T.

### April

**2<sup>nd</sup>:** Maundy Thursday at Bracknell  
**3<sup>rd</sup>:** Good Friday service  
**5<sup>th</sup>:** Easter Day service - bring a flower!  
**7<sup>th</sup>:** Rejoice!  
**9<sup>th</sup>:** 5@5  
**12<sup>th</sup>:** no SCT service  
**16<sup>th</sup>:** Thursday housegroup  
**23<sup>rd</sup>:** Coffee, craft and creativity  
**25<sup>th</sup>:** Sustaining Hope in 2026  
**26<sup>th</sup>:** Film night



**May - 10<sup>th</sup> - Church anniversary and gift day**

## Easter reminders -

**2nd April** - Maundy Thursday Supper & Service at Bracknell Methodist Church 7pm. Bracknell MC have invited us to join them for this special evening. Please let Keg know if you wish to attend so that the numbers can be passed to Bracknell for catering purposes.

**3rd April** - Good Friday service at our own church at 10am (please note the start time)

STOP PRESS! - Good Friday SCT Act of Witness at The Meadows 12.45 - 1.15pm has been cancelled. Unfortunately, for the first time ever we were not able to secure our pitch this year.

**5th April** - Easter Celebration Service led by Stephen Clay. Usual time of 10.30am. Don't forget to bring a flower to decorate the cross!

## Crowthorne foodbank

Current shortages -

**Bin bags, cleaning spray, washing up liquid, cleaning sponges, toilet cleaner, Deodorant, conditioner, hand soap, shampoo, toilet roll**



Note—they currently have plenty of baked beans, dog food, cat food and pasta

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.

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.

## Coffee, Craft and Creativity

Coffee, Craft and Creativity Mornings every **fourth Thursday** in the month.

This is a lovely opportunity to catch up over coffee and cakes and be creative too!



**The next Coffee, Craft and Creativity morning will be on Thursday April 23<sup>rd</sup> 2026 10.30 - 12 noon.**

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

**From Darkness ... to Light**  
explore stunning works from the Methodist  
Modern Art Collection

## **FROM DARKNESS**



## **... TO LIGHT**

Explore stunning works  
from internationally renowned artists such as  
**Graham Sutherland, Elisabeth Frink,  
Patrick Heron and Maggi Hambling**

at

**St Mary's  
Quarry Street  
Guildford GU1 3UP**

**9 March to 5 April 2026**

Free public opening times will include  
Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays  
9 March – 5 April 11.00 – 15.00

St Mary's  
Church

## Songs of praise at Sandhurst Day Centre

Did you know that a small group of people from the different churches in Sandhurst lead a Songs of Praise style service at Sandhurst Day Centre on the first Tuesday of each month from 11.30 am - 12 noon.

These short services are so appreciated by the Day Centre clients and staff alike and we always get a very warm reception. It really is a joyful way to spend a little time once a month. We would love some more folk to come and join us. You don't have to do anything (other than help by singing!) but if you wanted to do a reading or help with the prayers that would also be appreciated. With Revd. John Castle due to move away just after Easter, we will lose our regular piano player so if you can play an instrument, well, that would be fab!.

## Hotel toiletries

If you have any spare mini toiletries which you have had from hotels or airlines, then please consider donating them to the Whitechapel Mission Shelter for the Homeless.



Whitechapel  
Mission

Maggy and Colin G go up to the Shelter every year and take donated toiletries with them. Just hand to a steward. Thanks

## Your favourite hymns

If you would like to suggest a favourite hymn that we don't regularly sing, then please suggest it to Alison B and she'll put a list together for Sharon to try to include in one of her services with us. We would also be able to practice it in Rejoice!

## 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 meeting of Rejoice! will be on **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2026 unless advised otherwise.**



## Maundy Thursday supper

**2nd April** - Maundy Thursday Supper and Service **7pm at Bracknell Methodist Church**, Shepherds Lane, Bracknell, Berkshire, RG42 2BU

We have been warmly invited to join our friends at Bracknell Methodist Church for this special occasion, leading us into the Easter weekend.

Please sign-up on the sheet in the vestry (which will be made available during the Sunday services) or let the stewards know so they can add your name to the list. The supper will be a simple ploughman's, followed by fruit. (Please indicate if you require a vegetarian option.)

## 5@5 - Praying together for Sandhurst 9<sup>th</sup> April

If possible, please pray for 5 minutes at this time.

Our focus this month is on the Emergency Services. Let's pray for all involved; managers, first responders, support staff...

We uphold those we rely on in times of trouble including

- Police
- Fire and Rescue
- Ambulance

May they know god's word spoken by Isaiah (43v2):

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you

And when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you.

When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.

Our prayers might include -

Almighty God,

Give strength to those who are there for us

In times of crisis, fear, and hurt.

Give courage to responders who look beyond risk

For the sake of those who need help and protection.

We give you thanks for the many ways they give of themselves. Protect them, O Lord. Comfort them when they are tired or heartbroken.

This we pray in the name of our Saviour, Jesus.

Amen

## **Sandhurst and Yateley Methodist Church 120 years old this May!**

Here is a significant date for your diaries.....

We will be celebrating the 120th anniversary of our church on **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May**.

The first Wesleyan congregation met in Sandhurst in the open air on 1 January 1865, later moving into a barn and eventually into a brick chapel which opened in 1869. 36 years later the chapel was in need of major repairs and the decision was made to acquire a new site and build a new church. The resulting Sandhurst New Wesleyan Church opened for worship on 2 May 1906.\* This was the church we now call Sandhurst & Yateley Methodist Church. Since the opening services took place over several Sundays, we have chosen Sunday 10 May for our celebration.

There will be a special service led by **Revd. John Amankwatia**, followed by lunch and a drama reflecting the church's history. It will be a joyful day of thanksgiving for God's faithfulness and the vision of those early Methodists.

Please put the date in your diary. More details will follow in the next newsletter.

\*Information on the history of the church was taken from 'A Winding Lane in the Wilderness' a local history of Methodism in Sandhurst, compiled by Elizabeth Godden. It is a most interesting read which I can highly recommend. SG

Please ask Robert, Sharon or the stewards if you would like to borrow a copy.

## **Gift Day - Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May**

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May will also be a Gift Day.

We are currently expecting an overspend of around £4400 by the end of the tax year. While Gift Aid and lower utility bills may help, we are only just breaking even and wish to avoid using our reserves.

In addition, our projector is nearly 10 years old and will need replacing in the not-too-distant future. We hope to raise £2000-£3000 toward this. Gift Day donations will be set aside for the projector, with any surplus supporting general church costs.

Thank you for your continued generosity. If you are able to give - even a small amount - it will make a real difference.

Pastoral Support

Advocacy

Accommodation

## SUSTAINING HOPE IN 2026

Interpreting

Foodbanks

Drop-In Centres



Place of Sanctuary

Are you involved, or interested, in supporting  
Refugees, Migrants & Displaced Persons?

Befriending

English practice

### The Methodist South-East District 'Sustaining Hope' spring gathering for 2026

will include

Cafes

Form-filling

- time to network

- Rev Nigel Cowgill, Global Communities Officer: '*Being a Global Community*'
- Mary Barrett, Immigration Detention Visitor: '*Support, friendship, advocacy*'

Resettlement  
Schemes

**Date: Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> April, 10.00am - 1.30pm**  
(Refreshments from 9.45am)

Clothing Banks

**Venue: Redhill Methodist Church, RH1 1BP**  
Redhill Station is 5 minutes' walk away  
NCP car park on Gloucester Road opposite the church

Liaising with other Agencies

To register, for more information, or for the  
livestreaming link, please email  
Rev Hazel Forecast at

[hazel.forecast@methodist.org.uk](mailto:hazel.forecast@methodist.org.uk)

Mother-tongue worship

*Something else...*

## 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.

Facebook page: Babes and Tots - Sandhurst.

## Film night

Film night is on the 4th Sunday...

In April 2026 it will be on **26<sup>th</sup>** and this month it will be held in the church.

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



## Flower rota

For various reasons, there are always 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 in **April 5<sup>th</sup> (Easter Sunday) and 12<sup>th</sup>.**

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



**20% DONATED BACK  
TO YOUR CHOSEN  
CHURCH OR  
CHARITY.**



## **MAKING HOME INSURANCE COUNT.**

Take out a new buildings or contents policy with Methodist Insurance and we'll **make it count** by **giving 20% of your first year's premium\*** as a donation to a church or charity of your choice.

You can make it count without compromising on cover. Our home insurance policy provides comprehensive levels of protection, including home emergency as standard.

\* Terms and conditions apply. For details: [methodistinsurance.co.uk/charitydonation](http://methodistinsurance.co.uk/charitydonation)

Simply call **0345 606 1331**  
**[methodistinsurance.co.uk/home](http://methodistinsurance.co.uk/home)**



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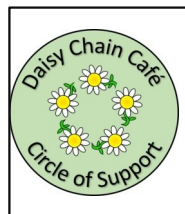
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**For people living with Dementia-Memory loss  
And their supporter**

## **Daisy Chain Café**

**Darby Green Centre, Darby Green  
Road, Blackwater Yateley GU17 0DT**

**Every Monday 14.00 – 16.00  
Except Bank Holidays**



### **FREE TO ATTEND**

The Café offers a relaxed, friendly place to exchange ideas with others in similar circumstances along with light refreshments, table activities, crafts, and occasional entertainment. A chance to make new friends and share the support of others.

Large Free Car Park

Stagecoach Bus 3 stops on Darby Green Road

**New volunteers always welcome** for further information find us on Facebook – Daisy Chain Café Yateley, email [daisychaincafe1@gmail.com](mailto:daisychaincafe1@gmail.com)

**Yateley Town Council 01252 872198**

**Donations welcomed directly or via [EasyFundraising.org.uk](http://EasyFundraising.org.uk)**

**Registered Charity 1192818**



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**[ian@recordvault.co.uk](mailto:ian@recordvault.co.uk) / 07737 003891**

**[www.recordvault.co.uk](http://www.recordvault.co.uk)**

**Unit 5/6 Redlands Yard, Broadwindsor, Beaminster DT8 3PX**

## 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 (preferably in plastic bags), bras (any condition), pens (working or not) and Ferrero Rocher boxes (probably empty!) in the other box in the foyer!

Note that Pringles tubes can now go in with your household recycling.

Thanks Sue T

## 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.

# Camberley & District funeral directors

Here for you when  
you need us most

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

## Sandhurst

337 Yorktown Road,  
College Town, GU47 0QA

**01276 33241**



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

## 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**—10:30am to 4:30pm

**Tuesdays**—11am to 2pm

**Wednesdays**—3pm to 7pm

**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)



## Minister

**Rev Sharon Gardner**

minister@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk  
01344 774967

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

Karen Glossop	Senior Steward
Sandra Wooledge	
Heather Brown	
Matt Rowell	

## Sandhurst Churches Together



Good Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April Act of witness (readings and hymns) at The Meadows cancelled

12<sup>th</sup> April no SCT service

**10<sup>th</sup> May at Sandhurst Baptist church**

14<sup>th</sup> June at Sandhurst and Yateley Methodist Church

12<sup>th</sup> July at St George's

No SCT service in August

## Newsletter and website

Contributions for the **May 2026** Newsletter (in church on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2026 or website) should be with Sue T by **Sunday April 19<sup>th</sup> 2026**

Contributions should either be:

Handed to Sue at Church,

Emailed to: newsletter@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk

# S.A.L.T.

## Bible Study in April

Having completed our fascinating series on Women in the Genealogy of Christ and the Women at the Cross, we prepare ourselves to continue our Bible Study on the Gospel of John (which was set aside during Advent and Lent). We pick up with John 16.



Why don't you join us? We often find that not everyone can attend every single week and that is not a problem, so if you were wondering about joining us but unsure whether you could make a weekly commitment, I would urge you to give it a try. Zoom with us as and when you can.

Along with praying, the reading of Scripture is a very important way of growing spiritually and studying it together helps it come alive. We learn from study guides and from each other. None of us are super-spiritual or have all the answers but together we grapple with the difficult bits and enjoy the more straightforward parts. There are no 'foolish' questions so if you've been coming to church for years and are concerned that you maybe aren't as familiar with the Bible as you feel you 'should' be - well don't be embarrassed or let that stop you giving this a go.

We meet by Zoom. If you're not sure about Zoom and haven't given it a go before, then please ask me (Sharon) and I can help you. You don't have to have a Zoom account to be able to join a Zoom meeting, you just need a link (see below for the link we use), and a laptop or iPad.

We start at 7.45pm for a short time of chat and prayer and begin the study at 8pm, finishing around 9pm.

Here's the line-up for April (only two sessions I'm afraid due to other commitment clashes):

7th April - NO Bible study

14th April - John 16

21st April - NO Bible study (Circuit meeting)

28th April - John 17

Zoom link:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/2799549300?pwd=YjVCazFHR0NwZE50OEhaRzhMdm13UT09>

Meeting ID: 279 954 9300

Passcode: 3v25BE

## House Fellowship group - providing a friendly platform for discussion...

### Thursday House Group (usually third Thursday)— at 15:00

We always welcome new faces and would love you to come and join us. To find out more, please email [steward@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk](mailto:steward@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk)



Next meeting will be on **16<sup>th</sup> April** at Robert's, then **21<sup>st</sup> May** at Margaret's.

## Rotas - April

### Flowers

### Coffee

April		
5 <sup>th</sup> (Easter Sunday)	-	Cynthia R and Margaret H
12 <sup>th</sup>	-	Heather B and Cynthia R
19 <sup>th</sup>	Sue T	Wendy H and Cynthia R
26 <sup>th</sup>	Karen G	Margaret H and Sandra W

## Lifts to church on Sunday morning

If you would like a lift to church and you live in Sandhurst or Yateley, please contact the stewards on [steward@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk](mailto:steward@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk) (or phone the minister on 01344 774967) and they can provide you with the details of some of our church members who have volunteered to give lifts.

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

### Yateley

Pam H

Tricia N

### Sandhurst

Graham F

Douglas B

## Services - April 2026



<b>April</b>		
3 <sup>rd</sup> (Good Friday)	10:00	Kim Tame
5 <sup>th</sup> (Easter Day)	10:30 am	Stephen Clay
12 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 am	Sue Smith
19 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 am	Rev Wes Hampton
26 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 am	Rev Sharon Gardner (Holy Communion)
	18:30 pm	Film night

For (nearly) up to the minute news, visit our 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**

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)

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