

Sandhurst and Yateley Methodist Church August 2026 newsletter



The Minister writes...

"For when the One Great Scorer comes
to mark against your name,
He writes – not that you won or lost –
but how you played the Game."

As the final whistle blew on the FIFA World Cup last Sunday evening, there were the inevitable winners and losers. Etched on the Argentine team's faces was the disappointment of hopes dashed and dreams crushed. Spain of course were celebrating, their fans wildly cheering, all signs of tiredness gone in the joy of victory.

Whilst I can't claim to be a football aficionado, I had, nevertheless, watched as England clung on against the DR Congo and thereafter I was hooked. I hoped they would have got through to the final but then, having seen them defeated by some very physical tackling from Argentina in the semi-finals (was I watching football or rugby?!), I confess to being smugly pleased when Spain won the cup. As indeed seemed to be the general opinion in our family WhatsApp group.

Yet, as football fever cools, a deeper, more enduring question remains that stretches far beyond the pitch: how did we – how do we - play the game?

The legendary sportswriter Grantland Rice famously wrote that the 'One Great Scorer' marks our names, not for the win or the loss, but for the character we show along the way. In our competitive, results-driven society, it is very easy to tie our identity to our performance. We celebrate visible successes, trophies and milestones, whilst treating setbacks as implied failures.

However, the Gospel flips this worldly perspective completely on its head.

Our worth is secure: in the eyes of God our value is not an outcome we have to earn. Through grace, we are already loved and accepted, completely independent of our 'scoreboard.'

The content of our character: God is deeply invested in the manner of our journey – our integrity, our kindness, our humility and how we treat others when the pressure mounts. For the quality of a person is better demonstrated in adversity than when life is going smoothly.



An eternal perspective: earthly trophies – much like the World Cup itself – are temporary. The victories of faith, love and community are what echo into eternity.

So, whether you are navigating a season of triumph or facing challenges and losses in your personal life, remember that you don't have to be perfect or have all the answers. God is with you and loves you no matter what. And in my book, that trumps winning the FIFA World Cup trophy every time!

With every blessing,

Sharon

What's on?

August

6th: Haldane House coffee morning
11th: Rejoice!
15th: Ballroom party for Margaret
20th: Housegroup
23rd: Local arrangement
27th: Coffee morning



Advanced notice (TBC)

3rd October either Messy Harvest or Brickbuilders for slightly older children
4th October Harvest Service with Harvest Lunch following the service
8th November Remembrance and Love Remembered service at 3pm
28th November Christmas Fayre/Sandhurst Camera Club exhibition
28th November Turning on the Christmas Lights
7th December Carol Singing at The New Inn
9th December Carol Singing at The Meadows
12th December Messy Christmas and Christingle

Emergency Evacuation Practice (Fire Drill)

At some point in the near future we will be carrying out a Fire Drill during one of the morning services. This is a requirement of Methodist regulations and part of emergency procedures required by law.

Please don't be alarmed when it happens, just follow the directions given to you by the stewards and proceed calmly to the assembly point which is the car park. If you have mobility restrictions there will be assistance available. It would be helpful if people could make a mental note of who is sat next to them so that we can more easily account for everyone once we're assembled. Usually you are sat with friends anyway so that shouldn't be a problem!

Christian Aid Week - 2026

Our Church collection raised a very creditable £433. A figure not seen since before the Pandemic. It was made up of 20 donations and does not include any donations made online. With Gift Aid declarations, around another £50 will be collected by Christian Aid.

Many thanks to all who donated and to the stewarding teams who collected in the money. More than ever we need to help those that are left forgotten to live in poverty.

Wilf

Crowthorne foodbank

Current shortages - **Cleaning spray, instant coffee, shampoo, squash (small), tinned spaghetti, cold tinned meat, jam, shower gel, tinned carrots, tinned tomatoes, conditioner, pasta sauce, sponge puddings, tinned fruit, toilet cleaner**



Note: the foodbank update their needs weekly here: 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 August 27th 10.30 - 12 noon. No craft activities, just coffee.

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

S.A.L.T.

Bible study boring? No way! Why not give it a try and find out for yourselves.

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.

It isn't necessary to attend every week - just join us as and when you can.

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. Joining a Zoom meeting is free. You don't have to have a Zoom account, you just need a link (see below for the link we use), and a laptop, tablet (e.g. iPad) or smartphone. We start at 7.45pm for a short time of chat and prayer and begin the study at 8pm, finishing around 9pm.

August ~ please note there is no Bible study during August.

Zoom link: Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 279 954 9300

Passcode: 3v25BE



Net Zero

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth ... God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good." Genesis 1:1, 31:5

As Christians, we believe that God created the world. We believe in the inherent goodness of creation, and we believe that God is active and present in the world - sustaining creation from moment to moment. As people made in the image of God, we believe we are called to reflect God's nature in being present and active in caring for creation.

See <https://www.methodist.org.uk/action/climate/> for the actions the church is taking relating to the environment and climate change.

Ballroom Party for Margaret

Apollo where care comes first **APOLLO CARE PRESENTS**

A Sunny & Fun

BALLROOM PARTY

in celebration of **Margaret!**

Join us for a joyful afternoon of music, laughter, delicious treats and great company!

SATURDAY 15TH AUGUST 2026

2PM – 5PM

SANDHURST & YATELEY METHODIST CHURCH

FEATURING Live Singer • Raffle • & BINGO!

ICE CREAM **TEA** **PICKY BITS FOOD** **FIZZY DRINKS**

Come along for a sunny, fun-filled afternoon!

RSVP FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT APOLLO CARE:

RSVP: 07869561372

www.apollocare.co.uk/apollo-care-surrey/

Ld@amini@apollocare.co.uk

Mum's carers, Apollo Care, are throwing a 'ballroom party' for her on 15th August.

Please do come along and celebrate (almost) 111 years.

Please let me know if you are coming, so that we can get the catering numbers right. Thanks.

Sue T

Camberley and District Silver Band concert



The Camberley and District Silver Band is a friendly and ambitious community band based on the Surrey/Hampshire border that is looking to grow. They were founded in 1960 and have maintained a busy diary to this day. Can you spot our very own Robert hiding in the background??

Their mission statement is:

'We're a Community Band that loves making music'

The band played at our church on the evening of Saturday 27th June 2026 and a very successful evening it was. They played 15 pieces during the evening. It was swelteringly hot and the industrial fan they brought along did little to stop the band players roasting! This however did not stop their enthusiasm and energy as they played in the extreme heat of a summer's evening.

First Half:

Army of the Nile, Carrickfergus, Lincolnshire Poacher, Devon Fantasy – Quiet Village, The Padstow Lifeboat, English Folk Songs and an Abba compilation.

After very welcome refreshments, the band played:

Aces High, Jerusalem, Partita-Intrada, Rule Britannia, Barnard Castle, Fantasy on British Sea Songs, The Floral Dance and The Lion King.

Question to test your memory?

Which of these pieces was Number 2 in the pop-charts at Christmas 1977?? See answer below

There was no admission charge for the concert, however you had to pay to get out!! People were very generous with their donations which amounted to £340.15. The proceeds will be split and half will go to the Band and the other half to our Church funds.

A truly uplifting evening – hope to see you back again in the not too distant future.

Also grateful thanks for all involved in supplying refreshments, clearing up and locking the door for the night.

Here is a photograph taken on the evening.

Keg

(answer to question is 'The Floral Dance' by the Brighouse and Rastrick Brass Band)

and another photo follows:



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.



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



Audrey Gamlin

Eulogy for Audrey Gamlin – written by Brian

On the 20th of April 1938 Audrey Christine came into the world, the first born of Albert Ernest and Eda Elizabeth Botwright. She was born at the City of London Maternity Hospital, City Road London, which meant she was a true Londoner, a true Cockney - something of which she was enormously proud.

Her father, Albert, was the owner of Charles Burnham, a printers and book binders in the heart of the city of London on Cutlers Gardens. The main business was to the banking and insurance industry but also the score books for the sports of cricket and tennis. Audrey often joked that maybe Lords and Wimbledon still had some of the score books in their archives!

Soon after Audrey was born the spectre of war loomed over Britain and Albert and Eda decided to move away from central London and relocate to Elm Close, North Harrow.

The Botwright family settled comfortably in North Harrow with Albert travelling daily to London for work and, in the evenings, doing his part for the war effort as an Air Raid Warden. The family was completed in 1943 with the arrival of a second daughter, Valerie Bertina, a younger sister to Audrey. Audrey and Valerie were very close and when, very sadly, Valerie passed away in September last year Audrey was never the same after losing her beloved little sister.

It was in London that they attended the Methodist Leysian Mission at Old Street and the church became a major part of the family's life. On moving to North Harrow, they attended the local Methodist Church, as well as making trips back to the Mission and to Wesley Chapel on Moorgate. Both Audrey and Valerie belonged to the Brownies and Guides, and other church youth groups connected to North Harrow Methodist.

Audrey left school at 14 and started as an apprentice in a local hairdresser but very soon moved to a more prestigious salon in the West End. Raymonds! Run by a gentleman more commonly known as Mr Teasey Weasey. One of the very few things she boasted about was being an apprentice under the hair dressing legend that was Vidal Sassoon - as well

as being one of a team of hairdressers that looked after the Queen's ladies in waiting for her coronation in 1953.

As well as working in London and after leaving Girl Guides at 18, Audrey became a Leader/Brown Owl of the North Harrow Brownie pack. She also started a second pack to meet local demand. Right up until she went into the Care Home in December 2020, she remained close to Guiding.

If hairdressing and Guiding was not enough Audrey met her first love, Donald Buchanan, at Harrow Methodist Church where they were married in September 1960. Sadly, within the next 23 months Audrey lost both her beloved father in November 1961 to cancer, and Donald in August 1963 to a sudden heart attack.

With Audrey questioning her Christian faith and with the love and backing of her mum and Valerie she made the brave decision to leave North Harrow. She went to work as the social secretary at the Methodist Guild Guest House in Colwyn North Wales called Plas-y-Coed. During this time Audrey rediscovered her faith and met another special person: Roy Gamlin, a motor-bike-riding printer from Heston in West London.

Roy would drive his Triumph Tiger Cub from West London to Wales whenever he could get leave from Fleet Street where he worked. What started as friendship developed into love and in October 1965 they were married at Heston Methodist Church and settled in Sunbury on Thames. In July 1966 their first son David was born, followed in September 1968 by Brian.

Roy and Audrey joined Sunbury Methodist Church and very quickly become members of various committees, one of which was the property group that was responsible for the current Methodist Church that sits on the A308 to Kingston.

They were happy years in Sunbury with the boys attending Kennington Manor Infant and Junior Schools and then Bishop Wand Church of England Secondary School

The boys joined the Boys Bridge and Roy and Audrey started helping with the Junior section as well as going on the BB summer camps in 1977 and 1978 to the Isle of Wight. Roy and Audrey also became the leaders of the youth club at the church.

But in 1984 this all changed when Roy was made redundant from the print industry and at age 52 this proved to be an issue in getting a job in the new world of computers.

After many disappointments trying to find a new job, Audrey asked Roy to respond to an advert she had seen in the local Informer newspaper for a Funeral Directors that were looking for a Husband-and-Wife team to run one of their branches in West London. They got the job and the family moved to Hounslow and Barton and Sons to work for the then Lodge directors of Mr Stan, Mr William, and Mr John Lodge.

In 1996 Roy and Audrey retired from Lodge Brothers and moved to 28 Walnut Close Yateley where they enjoyed many happy years, again becoming part of the local church and also getting to see old friends from their time living near Heston and Sunbury.

One of the great pleasures for them in retirement was spending time with their grandchildren, Joseph and Cerys, who brought them immense joy, love and happiness.

In 2016 Audrey was diagnosed with Parkinson's, which did not hinder them too much initially but over time, along with Roy getting older, life started to become more of a challenge.

Audrey stopped driving and life for them both became smaller and focused on 28 Walnut Close, Trefoil and Sandhurst & Yateley Methodist church.

We now know that dementia had started to dictate what, in the later years at Walnut Close and for a brief time at Tockington Court, they both were able to do. This was Parkinson's/dementia for Audrey and vascular dementia for Roy; we are incredibly grateful to neighbours at both locations in Yateley for keeping a close eye on them when David and I could not be there. Despite the challenges, Audrey continued to attend church and Trefoil gatherings until COVID lock down in March 2020.

In September of 2020 Audrey went into Frimley Park hospital for a right knee replacement. Sadly, she was not able to return home to be with Roy and on the 7th December the difficult decision was made for her to have 24/7 nursing care at Camberley Woods Care Home in Blackwater, near to Roy in Yateley. Roy remained at home until he joined Audrey at the Care Home in Sept 2021 before he passed away in June 2022.

Audrey took part in as much as she could in the home, enjoying flower arranging, craft, games, wheelchair Zumba, all sorts of activities. All with her usual smile and laugh.

In 2025 Audrey had a number of visits to hospital with bumps and infections. The last few affected her health greatly. David and Brian, with their families and partners, continued to visit whenever possible.

Valerie's death hit Audrey hard - she was the last person left on her side of the family - and Audrey missed the regular phone calls with her little sister.

In the last few months further lung infections caused further deterioration in Audrey's health and impacted her ability to attend activities in the home. With the help of the team at Camberley Woods, and in discussion with Audrey and her boys, life towards the end was made as peaceful as possible.

Audrey fell asleep for the last time on 3rd June with precious family by her side. Her deep Christian faith has Audrey reunited with Roy, Valerie, and Valerie's husband Stephen and all those who have gone before.

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 usually on the 4th Sunday... but...

The next date is **none in August**

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 August: 2nd, 9th, 16th

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

Rejoice!

From 10:30 - 11:30 on the 2nd Tuesday of the month a small group of use meet in the church 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 meetings of Rejoice! Will be on **Tuesday 11th August 2026** unless advised otherwise.

Ordination of KyungMi Banks



"I am the Lord, and there is no other; apart from me there is no God" (Is. 45:5)

The Question that changed everything

Before KyungMi Banks was born, a single question changed the course of her life. Her mother had already lost three children. Frightened that KyungMi might follow them, and not yet Christian, her parents considered an abortion, and her mother went to a neighbour to borrow the money. Instead of handing it over, the neighbour asked her something that would change everything. "What if there is a God, and what if God will provide everything your baby needs?"

Her mother decided to try. KyungMi was born and survived the six months everyone feared she wouldn't. She traces it all back to what John Wesley called prevenient grace, the grace that goes before us, even though she then knew nothing of Wesley or the Bible. God, she believes, was already holding her life.

A Coal Mining Village KyungMi grew up watching the transformation faith brings, including in her own parents' lives. The first church in her South Korean coal-mining village in the Northeast, which her family helped to build, changed people before her eyes. Men known for drinking, gambling and violence, the men children crossed the road to avoid, would walk through the church doors and come out softer, happier, more joyful.

God became so real for her as she witnessed these things. She wanted to follow Jesus, and was baptised when she was 12. She still remembers praying to keep that cold yet fresh drop of water on her forehead to cleanse her heart.

But by her early twenties, she had drifted, chasing promotion, money, and recognition as a qualified secondary school teacher, journalist and book editor in Christian publishing, where words were her gift. The Church had slipped down her priorities.

The Voice at Four in the Morning

Then, at four o'clock in the morning on the first day of the new millennium, she heard a voice. Gentle, but insistent. It told her to wake up and read Isaiah chapter 45. She had no idea what was in it, and tried to keep sleeping, but the voice wouldn't let her. So she found it in the index and read. The passage repetitively says, "I'm the Lord. There is no other God apart from me." It wasn't just echoing, but thundering at her heart.

She had refused God's calling once before, when she encountered God through Moses' story, and told God she wasn't the right person and that God should send somebody else, for she couldn't identify with Moses' slow, ineloquent speech. This time she listened with relief and trust. The question that had followed her since childhood finally had an answer waiting. Why had God saved her life, and what was it for?

Indirectly, For a While

KyungMi came to Britain in 2001 for missionary training with Youth With a Mission, and explored the possibility of serving as an overseas missionary. She knocked on different potential doors, travelling to several countries. Interestingly, whenever she tried, she felt God kept bringing her back to the UK. In one Bible college, Edinburgh, she met her husband John, and although she had never planned to marry in the UK, they agreed God was calling them together, with the Church as their shared mission field.

For years, she served God "indirectly" as she puts it, supporting John's ministry and looking after family, while one question never left her. "Lord, when will you let me work with you directly?"

The answer came through Cliff College and then a Methodist church in Bakewell. Watching all kinds of people, men and women of every background, step up to preach and lead worship, she began to wonder whether God might call her into the pulpit too. She didn't have to wonder long. People asked her to preach before she had even suggested it, and John reminded her she was already a preacher in her evangelist's heart.

She enrolled as a local preacher, and from that point on, she says, God was speeding her up. The people she met in Harpenden and Tower Hamlets whilst working as the circuit pastoral worker, affirmed and reaffirmed her calling with encouragement and support.

Standing Between Two Worlds

Training at Queen's in Birmingham taught KyungMi that ministry was never only her own calling. It belonged to her family too, with her teenage sons,

Daniel and Isaac, watching how their parents lived out their faith at home. And it taught her about the position. She did not need to stand at the front leading the crowd. She could stand in the middle, or even at the back, to be led. "It's not me," she says. "It is God and His grace."

Now a probationer in the Black Water Valley circuit, she finds herself among many cultures and backgrounds. People see her first as a foreign East Asian woman, and they bring her their questions. Why are you here? Can I believe what you believe? Is the God you follow the same God I knew back home?

She has learned to stand between two worlds, walking alongside people who feel they have lost a "spiritual father", and pointing them towards "the Father in heaven".

Her advice to anyone wondering whether God might be calling them is simple. The first calling is not about ordination at all. It is about your relationship with God and a clear confession of Jesus as the Lord (for life!), and that is a question only you and God can answer. And then trust, and obey. "Once you hear, you know that you need to stand and wait. The rest becomes history, between you and God."

Taken from the Methodist Web-site

Comments:

KyungMi was ordained on Sunday 28th June 2026 and is now Reverend Banks. She has only preached once at SYMC, that was on Palm Sunday, and what a noisy and joyful affair that was, with KyungMi leading a procession around the church whilst banging the bongo drums! We hope to see her again soon to lead our worship.

Here is a photo of her and the other 7 ordinands at their ordination



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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

Yateley Town Council 01252 872198
Donations welcomed directly or via EasyFundraising.org.uk

Registered Charity 1192818



Your church needs you!!!

Worship Team

We have a wonderful opportunity for you to be part of a team who will bring together services to bless our congregations on the occasions we do not have a minister to lead our worship.

We are expecting to have three local arrangements per quarter on the Circuit plan and would like to form a Team with fresh ideas who would like to help put together these services.

Our next Local Arrangement is on 23rd August and so we don't anticipate to be formed as a Team in time for this, but hopefully we can work together in the coming months.

We anticipate that this team will work together, drawing on the gifts of the congregation and putting together services. You will not necessarily have to take part!

Please speak to a member of the Stewarding Team if you would like more information or you would like to join us!

From your Stewarding Team

1 Corinthians 14:26 'When you come together, each of you has a hymn or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. everything must be done so that the church may be built up'

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!

Giving lifts to church

We have a number of people on the list who regularly give others lifts to church from both the Sandhurst and Yateley areas, but it would be helpful if we were able to have a few more volunteers. If you drive, please do consider if you would be able to help out like this. Thanks

Lost New Testament Pages Recovered after 1,500 Years

Researchers from the University of Glasgow were able to identify the words of a 6th century manuscript thanks to 'ghost imaging'.

Between the 10th and 13th centuries, the monks at the Great Lavra Monastery on Mount Athos, Greece, sporadically broke down a 6th century manuscript and reused its pages as binding material and flyleaves for other texts. In time 'Codex H' effectively disappeared. These new volumes were spread across Europe and it was only through the enterprise of a sharp-eyed 18th century French monk that researchers today have been able to locate the lost folios among libraries in Italy, Greece, Russia, Ukraine and France.

All the same, while the general content of Codex H, which contains a copy of the Letters of St Paul, was generally known, its layout and precise wording seemed irretrievable. Not so. A team of researchers from the University of Glasgow has now successfully recovered 42 previously lost pages from the important early New Testament manuscript. The tool that has made 1,500 year old Greek scripture suddenly visible is multispectral imaging, which allowed researchers to identify traces of ink that are virtually invisible to the naked eye.

The breakthrough arrived when the team, led by the divinity and biblical criticism professor Garrick Allen, realised that at one point in time the manuscript had been re-inked. This meant that chemicals in the reapplied ink had been transferred onto neighbouring leaves. These left what researchers called 'ghost impressions' that created a mirror image of the original text.

In partnership with the Early Manuscripts Electronic Library (EMEL), researchers used multispectral imaging to process images of the extant pages, in order to recover 'ghost' text that no longer physically exists, effectively retrieving multiple pages of information from every single physical page,' researchers wrote.

Although the text of the Letters of St Paul itself is already known, the version revealed is organised differently from modern counterparts.

Though only fragments of Codex H are salvageable today, the scholars believe that the original manuscript may have contained hundreds of pages, many of which were re-used and re-purposed as they fell into disrepair. While 19th century collectors in Europe bemoaned this practice, seeing it as barbaric, it has inadvertently led to the survival of texts such as Codex H.

Thanks to Douglas for drawing my attention to this article. The full article and images can be found here:
<https://news.artnet.com/art-world/medieval-codex-h-new-testament-discovery-2768248>

Scarecrow!

What do John Wesley, Pavarotti and Taylor Swift all have in common?

On the surface, very little, but they all appeared together in scarecrow form at the Hunshelf Scarecrow Trail in South Yorkshire.

The theme of this year's competition was 'ICONS - Someone who inspires you!'. John Wesley fitted the theme perfectly, and his horse Gospel (named after a character in a recent children's book) came along for the ride.

The public cast their votes, and it was nail-biting stuff; other contenders included Liam Gallagher, Freddie Mercury, and not one but two Paddington Bears - but Wesley emerged the victor.

The display was environmentally friendly too. John Wesley's creators, members of the Green Moor Methodist Church in Sheffield, pipped the other entrants to the post by upcycling and reimagining a previous church project. It was appropriate for a scarecrow that the congregation employed a make-do-and-mend approach, fashioning Wesley and his horse from long-forgotten models from the Nativity. The Minister, Deacon Annabel Terry says, "The dusty woven willow creations of Joseph, Mary and a donkey were rediscovered in cellars and sheds, then cleaned and repaired with fresh willow kindly donated by their original creator, who still lives in the village."

This is only the second year that the competition has run and there was a good turnout. Locals had a week to view the entries before voting and chose a very worthy winner.

John Wesley and his steed stand proudly in the corner of the churchyard, overlooking the road, drawing plenty of attention from passers-by. Meanwhile, Green Moor Methodist Church celebrated its success with a prize of wine, sweets and a rosette.

Although in its infancy, the event has proved so popular that it will return to Hunshelf next summer. The theme of 2027's competition has yet to be decided.

From Methodist news:

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/about/our-stories/scarecrow-john-wesley/>

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

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.

Current availability:

Mondays—10:30am to 4:30pm

Tuesdays—11am to 2pm

Wednesdays—3pm to 7pm

Thursdays—fully booked at present

Fridays— now available all day

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



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



No SCT service in August

The next one is **Sunday 13th September** at St Michael's.

Newsletter and website

Contributions for the **September 2026** Newsletter (in church on Sunday 30th July 2026 or website) should be with Sue T by **Sunday August 23rd 2026**

Contributions should either be:

Handed to Sue at Church,

Or emailed to: newsletter@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk

Prayers for the new Prime Minister

"As Church denominations, we share a vision of a society where the poorest and most marginalised are at the centre, where refugees are welcomed, where the environment is renewed, where a just economy enables the flourishing of all life."

The President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference have joined other church leaders in a letter to Andy Burnham. The letter assures the new Prime Minister of the prayers of churches across Britain and offers partnership in working for justice and peace calling for a government "of integrity that pursues justice and peace and seeks to serve the common good."

The full letter can be found on the Joint Public Issues Team website: <https://jpit.uk/>

Methodists at Durham Miners' Gala

More than 200,000 people took part in Britain's biggest celebration of community and solidarity the other weekend at the Durham Miners' Gala. The Gala parades through the city with banners and brass bands from pit villages, miners' associations, unions and other organisations. The Durham Miners' Gala is a living emotional reminder of the sacrifices made by workers and their families in the past and a call to all for social justice today.

This year, a new banner was paraded through the streets, a banner from The Methodist Church.

The Durham Miners' Gala was first held in 1871. Mining was a dangerous, back-breaking job that forged communities and faith. Rooted in personal holiness and social justice rather than hierarchy, Methodism was the denomination many miners chose to follow. This year, the Evangelism and Growth team partnered with the Newcastle and Darlington Districts and Elvet Methodist Church in Durham to recognise the relationship between Methodism, the miners and the support for those communities left behind now that the pits have closed.

The new Methodist banner was created by freelance illustrator Benji Spence who worships at Jesmond Methodist Church in Newcastle. The design began by consulting people from across the Methodist Church who were interested in the Gala. They discussed what they would like people to see and how they would like to feel carrying the banner. The group focused on ideas around heritage and hope, with the final banner featuring a miner's lamp and the words 'Dignity, Hope and Belonging'.

The methodist website: <https://www.methodist.org.uk/about/our-stories/methodists-at-durham-miners-gala/> has more.

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



The next meeting will be on **August 20th**.
At Robert's - note change of time to 2pm

Flower Rota

August	
2nd	-
9th	-
16th	-
23rd	Joyce C
30th	Mike B

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 (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 - August 2026



August		
2nd	10:30 am	David Betts
9th	10:30 am	Maggy Garton
	18:30 pm	No SCT service
16th	10:30 am	Rev Sharon Gardner (Holy Communion)
23rd	10:30 am	Local Arrangement
30th	18:30 pm	Rev David Ashby

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

To get in touch email:

Stewards: steward@sandhurstyateleymethodist.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