



The Messenger

May & June 2026

News

Quizzes

Recipe

Events



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From the Editorial Team

The 'title' Editor has, for me, such lofty connotations (which I don't deserve), so I am privileged to once again, provide my personal input into The Messenger (thank goodness it does not come around all that often) ha-ha.

The HOLY season of Easter has passed, and we looked forward to Easter SUNDAY which did not disappoint! Praise the Lord. Also, with the recent THREE baptisms, I feel I should share my baptismal verse which I hope will follow me all the days of my life although I am very aware that it is a journey for all of us and for me especially.

Philippines 1:6

Being confident of this, that He who began a good work in me will carry it on to completion, until the day of Christ Jesus.

Lord help me to live up to all that you have promised.

Amen

The editorial team reserve the right to reject any articles that may not be suitable. Only first names will be used, respecting privacy at all times. All photos submitted must have prior consent from those shown in the picture.

Our Pastors, Jack and Peter, will approve all editions prior to distribution.

The Editorial Team are:

Carole: shosholozo@hotmail.com

Chris: cj.hookey001@btinternet.com

Sally: pollard3@hotmail.co.uk

Items for the July/August 2026 edition should be sent to one of the above by Sunday 14th June, for distribution on Sunday, 28th June 2026

Thank you

From The Pastor's Desk

"This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it." Psalm 118:24

This is the day. This is the day includes every day – the days when the sun is shining and all is well; the routine days; the hard, difficult days. And there are days when something unexpected happens. The writer, Max Lucado, talks about 'messed up days!' which he illustrates in this way: "Birds have a way of messing things up, don't they? Into every day a bird will plop. Traffic will snarl. Airports will close. Friends will forget. Spouses will complain. And lines: deadlines; long lines; receding hairlines; luggage-losing airlines; wrinkle lines; unemployment lines; bottom lines."



The Lord has made The Lord has made each day and invites us to be glad **in it** – not after it, when it is over. Paul rejoiced in prison; David wrote psalms in the wilderness; Jonah prayed in the fish belly; 3 friends remained resolute in the fiery furnace; John saw heaven in exile; Jesus prayed in Gethsemane.

We will rejoice and be glad in it. It is a choice to live one day at a time, however difficult. We no longer have yesterday so don't hold onto regrets. We don't yet have tomorrow so don't dread troubles ahead. We only have **this** day.

Saturate your day in God's grace; entrust your day to his oversight; and accept his direction for the day.

So I pray that **this day** will be a 'God' day!

Blessings

Peter



Church Family News

Birthdays

May



5th - Daphne B
6th - Joan E
7th - Christine K
8th - Den M
9th - Rodney S
18th - Lynda F
23rd - Sam B

June



3rd - Sarah S
12th - Ralph D
19th - Chris L
21st - Clare B
23rd - Eileen C
24th - Stephen T
25th - Roger B
30th - Maureen J

If you have a birthday in July or August and are happy for us to put it in the Messenger, please let Sally know.

On Easter Sunday, there was great rejoicing as Chris O, Jason W and Katherine S were baptised. We wish them every blessing at this momentous time.

More celebrations! Congratulations to George and Hayley as they have announced their engagement. We wish them every blessing and much happiness for their future life together.

Our World Spring 2026 Update

We have a Spring Update from Georgina Varney, former Pastoral assistant at GBC and we are so blessed that Georgina is coming to lead our Day at Ladywell in September (see page 26)

Please do book early as last year we were over-subscribed and had to turn ladies away!

Easter Day Baptisms

Katherine's Testimony

"I lost my faith after my older brother passed away in 2004. I struggled deeply with his loss and couldn't understand why it had happened. Later, I was diagnosed with the same illness that he died from, and my mum and younger brother were also diagnosed with it. A few years later, I lost my younger brother too.

All of this left me feeling lost, struggling with depression and a constant fear of losing more people I love. I didn't know where to turn.

But then I attended an Alpha course, and it changed everything for me. I began to pray and slowly found my way back to God. During that time, I was also worried my youngest daughter might have the same illness. We prayed, and after a few weeks, her results came back negative. In that moment, I truly felt God's presence and His peace.

Even through all the loss and pain, God has given me so much to be thankful for—especially my two beautiful, healthy daughters. Today, through baptism, I want to publicly declare my faith and my decision to trust in God and follow Jesus."

Poem written by Chris on his Baptismal Day on Easter Sunday

God my Father hear my plea,
Set my bound and broken soul free.
Drugs and drink have had their way,
But I don't want to live this way.

I've tried before, I've tried alone,
But soon I fall - my strength is gone.
In prison walls, I've wept and prayed,
Still stuck inside this dark cascade.

Enough is enough - I can't pretend,
I need your mercy without end.
No more lies, no pride, no shame,
I call on Jesus' holy name.

Only Christ can cleanse my soul,
Make these shattered pieces whole.
Send Your Spirit, strong and true,
To build in me a life brand new.

I know the road ahead is steep,
And past regrets run dark and deep.
But with Your love to guide each breath
I'll walk with hope and fight this death.

So here I stand - I make this vow,
To trust in you Lord, starting now.
Not by might, nor by my will,
But by Your grace, I'll climb this hill.

Jason's Testimony

On December 16th 1982 my twin and I were born - my brother was called Miles.

Unfortunately, 10 weeks later Miles passed away on February 14th, my Dad's birthday and a few weeks later my heart stopped beating and, thanks to cot death alarms, my Mum resuscitated me.

When I was 9 years old, my nanna took me to a Christian festival and there I encountered Jesus in a powerful way.

During a worship session, I had a vision I was taken into heaven and was playing with a small boy who I believed to be my twin brother Miles.

I heard Jesus say "It's time to go now ", I said "I don't want to I'm very happy and peaceful here", (at home in real life my sister and I and the dog were brutally abused by my father) so wanted to go back to heaven where I was happy and peaceful.

Jesus called me again to go back. I said" why ? "Jesus said, "You have work to do for me".

In my teenage years I drifted away from the Lord and did my own thing . At the age of 19, I had 2 breakdowns which led me to spend time in a hospital. At the age of 21, I was diagnosed with M.S which is very painful on a daily basis.

In 2016, I met my beautiful wife, Fran and through Fran, I gave my life to Jesus again.

Hallelujah God is so Good.



Tribute To John Peters



I was incredibly sad to learn of the passing of John. He was a very dear friend, a most excellent and proud Welshman and a lot of fun. I first met John about twenty years ago when I was a volunteer at Skillway. One day the workshop door opened and in walked a man who had an Arsenal emblem on the breast pocket of his coat.

"You can't come in here wearing that," I said, "It might upset the boys."

"I can wear what I LIKE mate, I'm one of the Trustees," he replied. We quickly became firm friends and I particularly looked forward to John

preaching at Queen Street. Having been an English teacher at Charterhouse, he had a tremendous grasp of the language and delivered his sermons with his wonderful accent and the skill that some teachers possess.

However, he would almost always pick on ME, calling my name as he had done many times at school with his pupils. I would try to hide behind people and sit down as low as possible to no avail! He would always get Anne Brunt to sing a solo with her beautiful voice which was so uplifting.

We would often pop round to see him and his delightful wife Lis.

Our son James was struggling at school with his written prose and John kindly offered to help with this. James, however, wasn't keen; he was bored enough already with regular school.

John kindly gave me a signed copy of his book regarding the Toronto Blessing, a lovely gift from my most excellent friend.

Daki yar old Boyo!

Alex F

More Pets

Unfortunately, we had a 'lost dog' (Woody) who missed the last edition of the Messenger. We are pleased to report that Woody has now been found and can be seen below:

Woody



It is said that dogs give unconditional love and that was certainly true of my daughters dog and my friend Woody a rescue Border Collie from Ireland. I used to take him out for a walk on Monday's after which our daughter would pick him up and as sometimes was the case I had to visit their house 3 hours later Woody's welcome would be as if I had not seen him for weeks! As for sensing that you are

not well or troubled I remember an occasion when I had taken him out for a walk when I was a little stressed out and being advised to exercise deep breathing including holding my breath I was doing this on the common when I felt two paws on my chest and an anxious dogs face looking at me very concerned! This was typical of Woody and he always appeared anxious to blame himself if anything however slight went wrong even when it was nothing to do with him, as he always found the most out of the way corner to hide in at times like this! Woody died 2 years ago at 15 years old and it was my great privilege to have known this bundle of love and character for nearly all that time since his rescue.

Geoff Y

Bobby and Bambi

This was our much loved Bobby our golden retriever who sadly passed away last year. He left paw prints in our hearts and we miss him every day.



This is Bambi our precious Pomchi who loves cuddles and people. She has a very loving personality and is very much part of our family. We wouldn't be without her!

Manjula P



Dogs - Thoughts To Ponder On

Dogs are the only thing on earth that love you more than they love themselves. The average dog is a nicer person than the average person. Happiness is a warm puppy. Sometimes you don't need words to feel better; you just need the nearness of your dog. Dogs are not our whole life, but they make our lives whole.

If you've never owned a dog, there is not necessarily anything wrong with you, but there may be something wrong with your life. Dogs feel very strongly that they should always go with you in the car, in case the need should arise for them to bark violently at nothing right in your ear.

Dogs are like people - they need a job and a family to be what they're meant to be. There are over three hundred words for love in canine. When an eighty-five-pound mammal licks your tears away, then tries to sit on your lap, it's hard to feel sad. If I could be half the person my dog is, I'd be twice the human I am. The world would be a nicer place if everyone had the ability to love as unconditionally as a dog.

The Collyer/Taylor Pets

My first animal friend was Dave the budgie... he was a real character, quite happy to add Sadie and Sue, my first guinea pigs, to the family. Since then the family grew and shrunk as the time came for them to go to the Bridge. But Stan, Ollie and Compo will always be remembered.

These days Ian and I have a lively animal family: Annie the 4½ month old Cavapoo, Pattie and Pammy the guinea girls and Nora the budgie. Ian says he is outnumbered by females!!





MY MEMORIES OF SKYE

Always being assured of a joyful
welcome

Our peaceful early morning walks
and shared sunrises

So full of fun and energy

Endless patience

Sensitive to my feelings.

Good listener

Non judgmental

Forgiving when I didn't always get
things right

Holding no grudges

Loyal and faithful companion.

Unconditional love.

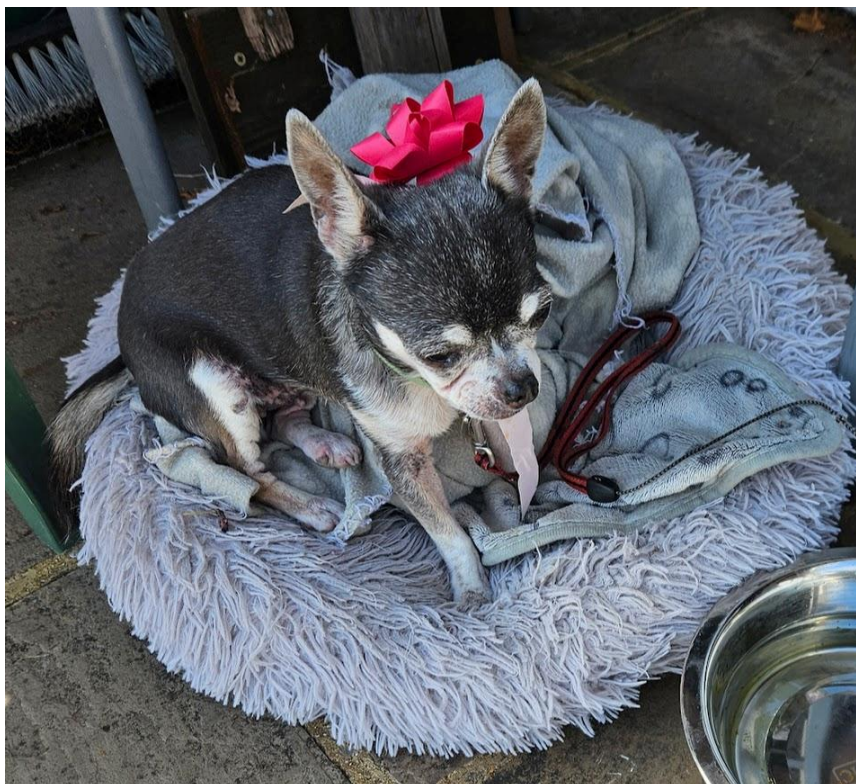
**What more could one ask from
a faithful friend ?**

An example of friendship we
should all strive to follow

Corinthians 13:4-7 (NIV)



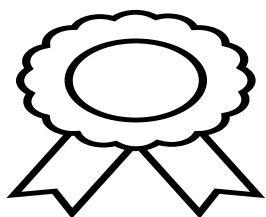
Gill



Boo Edmondson at
the ripe old age of 14.
Furry granddaughter to
Carole G-W



My pink winter coat



I was supposed to wear red & green, in aid of the charity we were supporting, but I could not find anything green. However, when I won 1st prize I'll bet the other contestants were GREEN with envy ha-ha

Carole G-W

Connect Out and About

Waggoners Wells is a series of lakes set amongst woodland of mature beech trees in a steep valley, not only beautiful but very peaceful. On our walk we identified twelve different birdsongs using the Merlin app.



Walks are always followed by lunch!



A great time to get to know one another.

In the autumn over one hundred thousand tulip bulbs from 58 cultivars were bought together in front of the historic Old Laboratory at **RHS Wisley**. In the spring we went to view the bright and colourful spectacular result.



Caption

We also visited other areas of the garden.



Caption

All ladies are welcome to join us and enjoy fellowship.

Monday May 11 Visit to ***Ramster***
Monday May 25 ***Walk***
Monday June 8 ***Walk***
Sunday June 28 ***Busbridge Open Gardens***

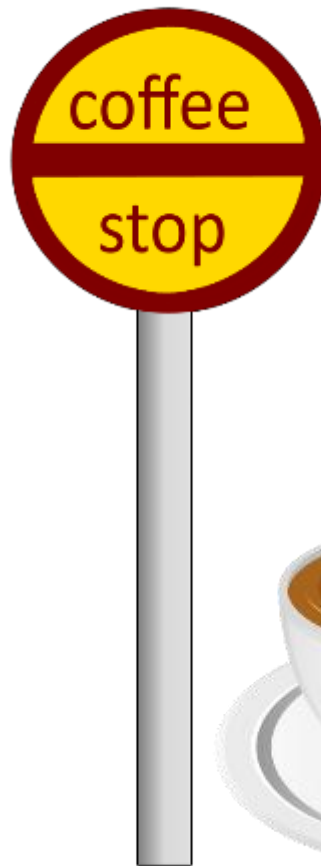
Senior Moments



Senior Moments had a great time at the Alfold Larder at the beginning of April. They enjoyed the ride out in the countryside and the most enjoyable tea. We shall go again!

Eric and Barbara





Sat 9th May 10am - 12.00 Noon
supporting Epilepsy Research UK
Sat 6th June 10.00am-12.00 Noon
-Supporting Ratidzo Trust



ERUK's vision is a life free from epilepsy.

We are the only UK charity exclusively dedicated to driving and enabling life changing, life saving research.

The research we fund is of the highest scientific merit and subject to rigorous scrutiny, involving a Scientific Advisory Committee, independent expert opinion, interviews and peer review and is carried out in universities and hospitals throughout the UK.

We work in three key areas:

Promoting, encouraging and funding research into the causes, diagnosis and clinical treatment of epilepsy and associated conditions

Developing the next generation of epilepsy researchers and capacity building the research environment

Accelerating innovations for people with epilepsy by supporting research that will influence clinical practice and health policy

Visit website: www.epilepsyresearch.org.uk

Ratidzo Trust



Come and support Coffee Stop at GBC on Saturday June 6th when Barbara and Steph will be baking delicious cakes and there will be tea/ coffee too! No charge but donations much appreciated for the work of Ratidzo in Zimbabwe, the charity set up by Richard and Edline Jarman



(**Ratidzo Trust** continued)

The sunflowers are now harvested and being dried ready to extract the oil. The team are working flat out with harvesting and setting up and running courses for local individuals always with verses from Isaiah 58 in mind: "The Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your soul. You shall be like a watered garden and like springs of water whose waters do not fail. Is it not to share with the hungry"

Litter Picking



Some of our Homegroup joined in the 2 week National Litter Picking once again this year. It was so sad at the amount of rubbish we picked up in just a small area-so many bottles/ plastic containers and rubbish.

We will do it again!



Life Issues

LIVING WELL WITH NEURODIVERGENCE (IN ADULTS) **focusing primarily on ADHD and Autism**



***Led by
Dr Jenna McKeown***

***Saturday 16th May 2026
10 am – 12.30 pm***

(Coffee available from 9.30 am)

***at Godalming Baptist Church,
Queen Street, Godalming, Surrey GU7 1BA***

This talk will cover some key points about what neurodivergence is,
focusing primarily on ADHD and Autism.

We will be debunking some common myths,
exploring some of the challenges which neurodivergent people
and their loved ones may face, as well as looking at some of the joys and strengths which can
come along with these conditions.

The talk will also have a focus on aiming to 'live well' with neurodivergence – considering how we,
or people we support, can have the best chance of thriving
in life, rather than merely surviving.

Signposting to further support and resources will also be provided.

*Led by Dr Jenna McKeown, a Clinical Psychologist with over 10 years post-qualification experience
in the NHS and Private Practice. Her work has involved assessment and therapy for people with all kinds of mental
illness. In her private work specifically, she carries out assessments of ADHD,
and offers post-diagnostic support and therapy to people with ADHD and/or ASD.*

**Please reserve a place, with payment of £8, by contacting Sally Pollard
email: pollard3@hotmail.co.uk, tel: 01483 428646 by Friday 1st May**

RELATIONSHIPS: THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY – AIMING FOR THE GOOD!



Led by Libby Williams

Saturday 20th June 2026, 10 .00am – 12.30 pm

(Coffee available from 9.30 am)

at Godalming Baptist Church,

Queen Street, Godalming, Surrey GU7 1BA

**Have you ever wondered why you relate to others the way you do?
Come to this workshop to gain insights into your style of relating.**

Do you like to spend time with others, sharing everything, living entwined lives,
and feel confused by those that want their own space?

Or perhaps you enjoy being independent, managing life and its challenges
without needing to involve others so much?

Do other people's needs feel suffocating?

Or maybe you find people too complicated to know where to start?

Do you feel emotions intensely and communicate these freely to others,
sometimes feeling misunderstood or like you're too sensitive?

Or perhaps you get accused of being numb, detached from life, as if you have a heart of stone?

Do you find yourself drawn to the 'wrong' kinds of people and wish you could understand why you
keep making similar relational choices?

Come along to this workshop to understand the psychology of attachment theory and how our
childhoods (including relational trauma) impact how we navigate life with others now.

This talk follows on well from Libby's previous one last year, on 'Trauma Being More Relevant to
Life Than We Realise' – it turns out attachment theory is also highly relevant for everyone!

By the end of the workshop we will hopefully all understand ourselves and those around us a little
better and be able to start to consider healthier ways of relating.

**Please reserve a place, with payment of £8, by contacting Sally Pollard
email: pollard3@hotmail.co.uk, tel: 01483 428646, by Friday 12th June**

Events

Learning to Live Above the Clouds



RETREAT AWAY DAY, LADYWELL CONVENT

Led by Georgina Varney

Saturday 5th September 2026

10 am – 4 pm

At Franciscan Centre, Ladywell Convent, Ashstead Lane, Godalming, Surrey GU7 1ST

“On a recent trip to Belfast, I left behind the miserable weather on the ground at Birmingham Airport and took off into the very grey sky. As with all flights, the Attendant took us through the safety procedures, which I dutifully listened to! Looking out of the small window I saw the beautiful white billowing clouds, and the most amazing sun lighting up the bright blue sky. How could it be so different on the ground compared with this view? The clouds looked as if you could walk on them.....it would be great to live above the clouds I thought to myself!”

Is it possible to live above the clouds? Can we, and how do we do that?

Life can be challenging and sometimes overwhelming for a variety of reasons. Together we will look at lessons we can learn from God’s Word and from each other as we discover practical as well as spiritual ways to live our lives in the ‘Light of the Son’.

***“He covers the sky with clouds; he supplies the earth with rain
and makes grass grow on the hills.***

Psalm 147:8

**To reserve a place we will need a completed booking form (available from Sally Pollard,
email: pollard3@hotmail.co.uk, tel: 01483 428646)
and payment of £28 (to include lunch and refreshments)
by Friday 31st July**



Spring 2026

Dear Friends,



The start of this new year has been memorable for so many people for all the wrong reasons! Where I live on the south coast, we have had a number of road closures and some flooding of homes. These all remind us that the climate is changing. Our news reports on T.V., radio and on line also tell of other world changes that are taking place, and this sometimes leaves us fearful. However, we know that there is one constant factor: God is in control and He will never leave or forsake us (Deuteronomy 31:6), no matter where our lives lead us. How important it is to pass on this message to others, and how important it is to tell this to our children.

Georgina shares with us in these columns, how she delivers these truths and others, to the children, staff members and adults, in the schools and churches she visits.

There is an opportunity later this year to celebrate this work with Georgina at a Thanksgiving Service at Himley Road Methodist Church. There will be a cream tea afterwards and a time to chat. Please put the date in your diary. We do hope you will be able to join us.

Blessings, Jenny Leforte,

on behalf of the O.W. trustees

Service to Celebrate Our World

(followed by a Cream Tea)

Saturday 20th June

at Himley Road Methodist Church at 2.30 pm

Himley Road, Gornal Wood. Dudley DY3 2TS

(RSVP)

**'Our World' 19 Woodcroft Avenue, Tipton,
West Midlands DY4 8AE**

enquiries@ourworld.org.uk

Our World Charity No.1152074

Sharing the Word

To be asked to speak in churches is such a very privileged opportunity whatever the size of the congregation. I am always so thrilled to be asked back to churches around my community to bring the Word of God. In recent months I have been at Lake Street Methodist Church, Quarry Bank Congregational Church and at Five Ways Methodist Church.

Sadly, due to the age of the building and the need for repairs, Five Ways has now closed its doors after 180 years of ministry in the Gornal area. The church family have joined with another local church. Whilst helping with the clearing up of the building, I came across a copy of the Billy Graham London Crusade song book that I remember using in my Church on the south coast when I was probably around ten years old. Number 21 was a favourite of mine, **'I serve a risen Saviour, He's in the world today; I know that He is living whatever men may say; I see His hand of mercy, I hear His voice of cheer, and just the time I need Him He's always near. He lives, He lives....'** The book may have seen better days, but this message still holds true.



Before Christmas, people came together to celebrate the history of this church and it was an amazing time. So many had great memories of how they came to faith through attending the church or how their faith grew. Though things around us change, the truth is that we must continue to share our faith with those we meet. One school I visit used to have a motto on the wall which said we need: 'Roots to grow and wings to fly', what a great thought.

School Assemblies

It is always a great challenge to create assemblies or collective worship for schools. What can you say in approximately fifteen minutes, that communicates a Bible story or concept and engages all the children, whose ages range from five to eleven? However, I love a challenge. It is a reminder that God is in control and His inspiration can come in many forms.

Prayer



When setting up a prayer space in school you never know how many children might use it. This button prayer space has been used so much that I am amazed. Children tell me that they have emptied the labelled boxes for prayer because they have run out of buttons. Each box might say family, friends, farmers, school, the world, and for every prayer they offer, they put a button into the box. I have been blessed to be in the corridor and see children stopping to pray. This also helps me to see what the children are praying for. Often it is for friends and family.



Display boards Make a Difference

At the start of this New Year, I put up a special board in St. Margaret's School to highlight how we could possibly make some changes in the way we do things. I encouraged the children to write a prayer or think about what they would like to do differently. I left a large pile of paper for the children to write on. To my surprise I was met by a year 1 little boy who told me he couldn't pray because we had run out of paper. I assured him I would fill it up and as he left, he said, "Georgina, are you doing it now because I will be back at lunchtime"what a joyful moment!

Prayer Changes Things



I was recently involved in helping to organise a prayer event at my local church. There were a good number of people who came to spend time praying for the Church and its mission, the Community and the World. I was able to use some of our maps and flags to create the prayer areas.

The Importance of Dates

Harvest comes around so quickly every year, and I encourage support of local foodbanks in our communities alongside our world with all its needs. It continues to be an important event in schools and churches. In September and October, we raised money for the charity 'All We Can,' who supply a special variety of seed potatoes to farmers in Ethiopia. These can grow in the ever-changing global climate.

Whenever I speak about the world and the number of people who don't have enough to eat, I think of the seeds I am trying to sow in the lives of the children. It is always my purpose to pass on information about the needs in our world to this next generation, and to help them understand that we have a responsibility to care for our world. In a school I may have the opportunity to speak to 200 hundred children and one of them may end up as water engineer, an agriculturist or a nurse. Who knows what this next generation of children might do to change the world for good?

Christmas Workshop

At St Margaret's School I led a special Christmas Sight & Sound workshop with activities. The session enabled the children to look at communication through braille using Lego bricks and creating Christmas cards that could be sent to a visually impaired person. The children hope to raise money in the future for the Leprosy Mission to save the sight of a leprosy sufferer.

Since my time in school, as a nation, Remembrance Day has been given a much higher profile. It has been a special event at St. Margaret's School where, alongside a special service, the Year 6 children walked to the local church where we spent an afternoon discovering information about local men who were involved in WW1 & WW2. It was an interesting time where, helped by some parents, they considered what it would be like to see their neighbours going off to war and some not returning. The children said they really enjoyed thinking about life in those days and one child said that these men may well have sat in the pews they were sitting in.

During the service at school, the children each put a poppy leaf onto a large piece of card to create a clock face showing 11.00 am. Children also read letters to and from the frontline to show how families coped during those very difficult times. It was so lovely to hear the words of the Act of Remembrance read out by the children in my SWITCH Team. The whole school stood silently, including all staff, as we stopped to remember the sacrifice so many gave. I found it very emotional to look at little children scattering poppy leaves.

Christmas Activities

A lovely new opportunity came at the end of last year from Roberts Primary School. I was asked by the Reception Class lead teacher to come and speak to three classes of five-year-olds, about the season of Advent. I really enjoyed putting together this session for these little ones on a level they could understand.



Also, at Robert Primary, I ran three workshops for Year 1 called 'Christmas Traditions Around the World.' The children created a special wreath which showed many of the ways we celebrate this special time of the year around the world. We 'visited' Mexico, Spain, Hungary and Peru as well as stopping in Egypt and Australia. The children also sang 'Silent Night' in Spanish. This proved to be a very special event with the children.

Bringing the Community Together



Woolly Blessings- Knitting, Crochet And Chat!

Godalming Baptist Church

Thursday 15th January

Thursday 29th January

Thursday 12th February

Thursday 26th February

Thursday 12th March

Thursday 26th March

Thursday 23rd April

Thursday 7th May

Thursday 21st May

Thursday 4th June

10 til 12 noon-£1 appreciated

Coffee/ Tea served and learn or why
not pass on your expertise to a new friend while
having fun. Bring your own wool. For further
information call Michele on 07525 164409



Conservatoire Concerts



May and June 2026

Concerts at Godalming Baptist Church



Saturday 23rd May, 7.00pm

**An original and exciting
Guitar and Violin
Concert
with Arie Dekasian
and
Polina Sharafyan**

Sunday 21st June, 7.00pm

A Baroque Concert

**in collaboration with Tilford Bach Festival, featuring
works by Bach, Vivaldi, Corelli, Leclair, Handel and
more.**

For this concert please book on tilfordbachfestival.org

Saturday 27th June, 2026 - 7.00pm

Highlights from Opera and Musicals

Featuring popular arias and songs

Booking:

www.conservatoireconcerts.org.uk

suzanne.cacciottolo@gmail.com

**Admission Free - Retiring collection towards
musicians' fees and expenses**



Codeword

A codeword with only the codes for H = 1 and O = 2 given (No Q, X or Z) of two verses written by John. For those not familiar with codewords, fill in squares numbered 1 with H and squares numbered 2 with O and then work out the codes for the other letters and thus discover the verses. I have given you an alphabet list so you can tick off what letters you have found as a help.

Eric

	1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	14		8	1	6
	11	2	15	6		8	1	6		13	7	8	1	6	5	
1	7	14		11	7	15	9	14	1	6	10		2	16		17
8	1	7	8		3	6		14	1	2	17	11	10		19	6
20	7	11	11	6	10		20	1	9	11	10	5	6	16		2
	4	2	10	!		7	16	10		8	1	7	8		9	14
	3	1	7	8		3	6		7	5	6	!		10	6	7
13	5	9	6	16	10	14		16	2	3		3	6		7	5
	20	1	9	11	10	5	6	16		2	13		4	2	10	,
	7	16	10		3	1	7	8		3	6		3	9	11	11
		19	6		1	7	14		16	2	8		18	6	8	
	19	6	6	16		22	7	10	6		23	16	2	3	16	.
	19	17	8		3	6		23	16	2	3		8	1	7	8
3	1	6	16		1	6		7	12	12	6	7	5	14		3
14	1	7	11	11		19	6		11	9	23	6		1	9	22
13	2	5		3	6		14	1	7	11	11		14	6	6	
1	9	22		7	14		1	6		9	14	.		2	16	6
21	2	1	16		8	1	5	6	6		2	16	6	-	8	3

1	H	2	O	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23					

Solution on page 43

Prayers

Prayers of mission

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations...”

We thank you Father for all that have heard your call and responded over the generations with the result that the gospel has been preached around the world and the church has advanced and we have heard and responded to your call. Thank you for the heritage of Godalming Baptist church and all that have gone before us. Thank you for each and every organisation working around the world and particularly for those that we know of and have been associated with in Godalming Baptist Church. We pray for the BMS, for office staff and those working abroad to share the good news of Jesus Christ. Please ensure they are adequately provided for and enabled to do the task set before them. May they find their spiritual resource in you alone and may the outcome of their work be that many find Christ as their Lord and Saviour. Amen

As Trinity Trust work in the community and in our local churches to share the gospel with school children and young people we lift the organisation and those running it to your care and keeping. Please can you ensure that the shortfall in their funding is met and sufficient provided for the coming years. Will you bless the workers with your enthusiasm and encourage them as they engage in schools and churches that the good news of the gospel is shared and young people can find a life lasting relationship with you. Amen

We pray for the work with children in our local churches. Will you inspire and guide those teaching that they may share your good news. Please continue to raise up those that can teach and lead. Will you settle the children to be attentive and to engage with the teaching. May many come to faith in Jesus Christ.

We thank you for the inspiration that saw the Cellar Christian Trust established and the Cellar Camino cafe started and sustained over many years. We lift to you all that have passed through their premises and care and ask that you will continue to bless them. We lift to you the faithful staff and volunteers who enable it to operate and ask that they may be blessed and encouraged in the work. Will you ensure there is sufficient funding to enable the work to prosper and be an ongoing blessing to the people of Godalming. Amen

We ask for your hand of protection blessing and provision for each of the mission organisation and individuals that we as a church support on a regular basis. Please inspire us in prayer, support and giving that they may continue in the work you have given them. We recognise your call on each of our lives to bring Christ to those you bring across our path. Please help us to hear your call and guidance and give us the courage to respond. Will you settle in us a heart for pray and the study of your word that your will may be done on earth as it is in heaven. Amen





**Everybody Always - Becoming Love In A World Full Of Setbacks And
Difficult People**

By Bob Goff

In his entertaining and inspiring follow-up to the New York Times bestselling 'Love Does', Bob Goff takes readers on a journey into the secret of living without fear, constraint or worry. The path towards the liberated existence we all long for is found in a truth as simple as it is hard to do: love people, even the difficult ones, without distinction and without limits.

Driven by Bob's trademark storytelling, 'Everybody Always' reveals the lessons Bob learned - often the hard way - about what it means to love without inhibition, insecurity or restriction. From finding the right friends to discover the upside of failure, Everybody Always points the way to embodying love by doing the unexpected, the intimidating, the seemingly impossible. Whether losing his shoes while skydiving solo or befriending a Ugandan witch doctor, Bob steps into life with a no-limits embrace of others that is so infectious as it is extraordinary ordinary. Everybody Always reveals how we can do the same.

Have A Little Faith - Whatever That Means To You

By Revd Kate Bottley

Hello there, Come on in. I know what you're thinking 'I'm not religious, so I'm not sure if this is for me'. But the truth is this book is simply about being human. Believing in something, no matter what it is, gives us hope, and that's what helps us get through this messy, joyful, unexpected ride we call life.

Over the years, I've sat on plenty of sofas, drank plenty of (questionable) cups of tea and learned endless lessons from the wonderful people I've met. Above all, they have taught me that there is no right way to do things - and that's OK. In these pages, I have shared everything I've learned about how to deal with life's biggies - like love and death, as well as confidence, conflict and loneliness - in the hope that I can make you feel less alone and arm you with the tools to face the tougher times.

Hopefully this book will remind you to pause, appreciate how far you've come, savour the precious moments and enjoy a giggle or two along the way.

Godalming Baptist Church library has a vast selection of books covering various life issues e.g. Bereavement, Dementia, Addictions, Autism, Depression, Self-Harm etc. There are also books on encouragement and guidance in life's journey.

Open Sunday mornings after 11:30am or weekdays during term time between 9:00 and 12:00 (subject to bookings)

MESSENGER QUIZ May-June 2026

1 - On a weather map, what is represented by blue triangles joined together in a line?

2 - In the realm of personal finance, what is meant by a PIN?

3 - Which former world leader and prison inmate titled his 1994 autobiography 'Long Walk To Freedom'?

4 - Which two countries celebrate Anzac Day??.....

5 - 'Swain's calls' or 'bosun's whistle' can be heard where?

6 - The nickname 'Smudge' or 'Smudger' usually refers to people with what common surname?

7 - Having only one vowel, being only four letters in length and using consonants that people rarely guess, what is statistically the hardest word to guess in the game of Hangman?

8 - Which meat is traditionally used in a Lancashire Hotpot?

9 - What word is given to both the aroma of a wine and an arrangement of flowers?

10 - What four-letter name is shared by a flightless bird native to New Zealand and a fruit also known as a Chinese gooseberry?

- 11 - The land once known as the Imperial State of Persia is now which modern-day country?
- 12 - In baseball, how many runs are scored in a grand slam?
.....
- 13 - It is estimated that there are roughly how many living insects for every human being?
- 14 - What item did Mary Poppins use to fly?
- 15 - Comma, hummingbird, brimstone, tortoiseshell and monarch are all types of which insect?
- 16 - It is thought that which 320-million-year-old insect of the suborder Blattodea would survive a nuclear war?
- 17 - What is a female leopard called?
- 18 - Lavender is a shade of which colour?
- 19 - Traditionally, which Italian whey cheese is the filling of cannoli?
.....
- 20 - How many points are there on a Star of David?

For answers see page 43

Recipe

DATE LOAF

- 1 Cup chopped dates (200 grams)
- 1 cup boiling water (250 grams)
- 60 grams butter cubed
- 1 cup brown sugar (180 grams)
- 2 teaspoons vanilla essence
- 1¾ cups Self Raising Flour (260 grams)
- 1 tsp bicarbonate of soda.

Preheat oven to 180 degrees and line a loaf tin with baking paper

Roughly chop dates and place in large bowl

Add sugar and butter and pour over boiling water. Gently stir until butter is melted

Add vanilla essence, self raising flour and bicarbonate of soda and mix well

Pour mixture into prepared tin and gently smooth the surface.

Bake in oven for 35-40 minutes.

Cool in tin for 15 minutes



Thoughts

R2

Picture from AI

The Most Powerful Prayer – Read It Once; It Works Immediately



Heavenly Father, I place my future in Your hands. Darkness has tried to bring delays and closed doors, but You are the God who makes a way.

I declare: my destiny belongs to You. Open doors no one can shut, remove every obstacle that blocks my steps, and lead me into Your perfect plan. Surround my journey with Your light, and let no curse, no attack, and no scheme succeed against me.

Lord, I promise to share this prayer with at least one person. Put 'Amen' to disappoint Satan!

picture from AI



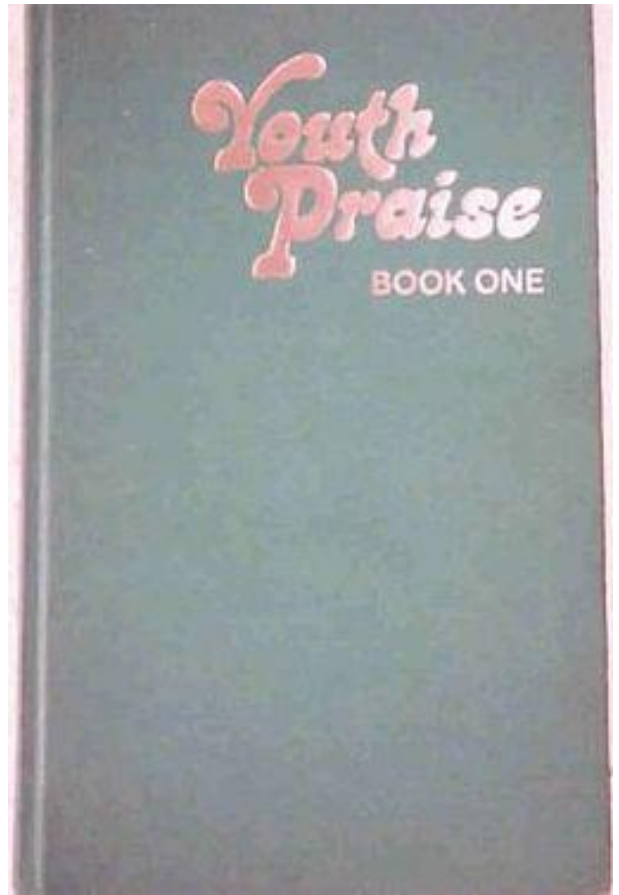
**Somebody somewhere
is praying to have at least
one thing you have
right now. Please stop
taking your blessing
for granted.**

@officialth

Power of
POSITIVITY

A Memory From Eric

Back in the 1960s song books Youth Praise 1 & 2 were published and we used them at the Christian Union at King Edward's School where I ran the CU. A couple of songs became very popular, especially the one below. We, a group of staff and seniors, sang it in the school minibus on a trip to Morocco (but that's a different story) and I still sing it to myself at least once a week and nearly always if I am out walking on my own. I love the words and it's syncopation although I probably now put the syncopation in the wrong place. I am not suggesting we sing it at GBC (though it would be no bad thing) but here it is - it starts and ends with the chorus.



*Jesus Christ is my Lord and King,
To Him honour and glory bring,
Join the mighty host in heav'n above,
And praise His glorious name.*

He who now is reigning in majesty,
Stooped to bear our sin is humility,
There on Calvary - Jesus died for me,
Died to set me free - eternally!

Justified by faith we have peace with God,
Fellowship with Him through our Saviour's blood,
Wonder though it be - sons of God are we -
In His family - eternally!

*Words and music by Michael Baughen
(Youth Praise 12)*

Eric

God Gave us One Another

God gave us the seasons -
each with its own beauty and reason,
each meant to bring us a blessing, a
joy, and a feeling of love.
God gave us the sunshine, the rain,
and the beauty and freedom of nature
to teach us the wisdom of gentle
acceptance.



God gave us miracles
in our hearts and lives,
little things that happen
To remind us we're alive.
God gave us the ability
to face each new day
With courage, wisdom
and a smile from knowing
that whatever sorrow or pain we face,
He abides with us
securely in our hearts.

Most, of all God gave us
one another
to teach us about love
and guide us through this
world,
always available to help us
forward
toward a greater
understanding
and a greater sharing and
giving of love.

Regina Hill



Churches Together in Godalming & District
Sunrise Service - Easter Day 2026

Father God,
when we are despairing
when the world is full of grief and conflict
when hope seems like a distant dream
Lord, come in love AND ROLL AWAY THE STONE

Lord Jesus,
when we fear change
when we are not ready to hear you call our name
when we'd rather weep and run away
Lord, come in love AND ROLL AWAY THE STONE

Holy Spirit,
we come with the women
we hope where hope seems in vain
you offer us life and show us the way
Lord, come in love – AND ROLL AWAY THE STONE



Quiz Answers

- 1 - Cold Front
- 2 - Personal Identification Number
- 3 - Nelson Mandela
- 4 - Australia and New Zealand
- 5 - On ships
- 6 - Smith
- 7 - Iron
- 8 - Lamb or Mutton
- 9 - Bouquet
- 10 - Kiwi
- 11 - Iran
- 12 - 4
- 13 - About 1.4 billion
- 14 - Umbrella
- 15 - Butterfly
- 16 - Cockroach
- 17 - A Leopardess
- 18 - Purple
- 19 - Ricotta
- 20 - Six

Codeword Solution

	H	O	W		G	R	E	A	T		I	S		T	H	E	
	L	O	V	E		T	H	E		F	A	T	H	E	R		
H	A	S		L	A	V	I	S	H	E	D		O	N		U	S
T	H	A	T		W	E		S	H	O	U	L	D		B	E	
C	A	L	L	E	D		C	H	I	L	D	R	E	N		O	F
	G	O	D	!		A	N	D		T	H	A	T		I	S	
	W	H	A	T		W	E		A	R	E	!		D	E	A	R
F	R	I	E	N	D	S	,	N	O	W		W	E		A	R	E
	C	H	I	L	D	R	E	N		O	F		G	O	D	,	
	A	N	D		W	H	A	T		H	E		W	I	L	L	
		B	E		H	A	S		N	O	T		Y	E	T		
	B	E	E	N		M	A	D	E		K	N	O	W	N		
	B	U	T		W	E		K	N	O	W		T	H	A	T	
W	H	E	N		H	E		A	P	P	E	A	R	S		W	E
S	H	A	L	L		B	E		L	I	K	E		H	I	M	
F	O	R		W	E		S	H	A	L	L		S	E	E		
H	I	M		A	S		H	E		I	S	.		O	N	E	
J	O	H	N		T	H	R	E	E		O	N	E	-	T	W	O



You are warmly invited to join us for Sunday Services at 10:00am
Our morning services are recorded and videoed and are available to watch live or on
YouTube later

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCwMJcsPAKXKSImP7sfTfCg>

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07846 252138**

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07809 443577**

or

**Sally Pollard, Pastoral Worker - pollard3@hotmail.co.uk
01483 428646 or 07976 276753**

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