

IN TOUCH DIARY

December 2016

Sun 4th – 10.30 am Revd Paul Hulme Holy Communion
Frid 9th – Mon 12th – St Nicolas Tree Festival, St Nicolas Church
Sat 10th – 2.30-4.45 pm Christmas Tea and Concert
Sun 11th – 10.30 am Revd Dr Claire Potter – Christingle Gift Service
Sun 11th – 6.30 pm Revd Dr Claire Potter - Communion Service
Mon 12th – 5.30 pm St Nicolas Christmas Tree Festival Prize Giving with Carol Singing
Weds 14th – 7.30 pm The Wednesday Club Christmas Open Evening at Hilary's
Sun 18th – 10.30 am Revd Dr Claire Potter – Carol Service
Sun 18th – 6.30 pm Village Carol Service at St Nicolas
Sun 25th – 10.30 am Revd Dr Claire Potter



January 2017

Sun 1st – 10.30 am Mark Lawson
Sun 8th – 10.30 am Revd Dr Claire Potter – Covenant Service/Holy Communion
Weds 11th – 2.00 pm Cedar Court Methodist Service – Leader – Revd Brian Treharne
Weds 11th – 7.30 pm The Wednesday Club – Golden Anniversary Evening at Jill's
Sun 15th – 10.30 am Mrs Thelma Roberts
Sat 21st – Christian Aid Quiz – Details to follow
Sun 22nd – 10.30 am Revd Dr Claire Potter
Sun 22nd – 6.30 pm Revd Dr Claire Potter Week of Prayer for Christian Unity/United Service
Weds 25th – 7.30 pm The Weds Club - Travels Round the World at Teresa's
Sun 29th – 10.30 am Mrs Lyn Mackay

February 2017

Sun 5th – 10.30 am Revd Dr Claire Potter Holy Communion
Weds 8th – 2.00 pm Cedar Court Methodist Service – Leader – Revd Brian Treharne
Weds 8th – 7.30 pm The Weds Club, Cranleigh Village Care at Helen's
Sun 12th – Local Arrangement
Sun 19th – 10.30 am Michael Widdup
Sun 19th – 6.30 pm Revd Dr Claire Potter Holy Communion
Weds 22nd – 7.30 pm The Weds Club – The Search for E.T. (Peter Bond)
Open meeting at the Church
Sun 26th – 10.30 am Revd Cannon Dr Steve Green

I N T O U C H



December 2016 - February 2017

Cranleigh Methodist Church

LETTER FROM CLAIRE

Dear Friends,

Every Sunday we light a candle at the start of worship. We often use the one in the holder given to Cranleigh Methodist Church by West Horsley Methodist Church. Once a month we are now using our Wey Valley Circuit candle to show our connection with the other twelve churches in this new Methodist Circuit. I often light a candle at home too. I wonder what we think we are doing? Our worship would be just as valid and as acceptable to God whether we lit a candle or did not. Indeed, our forebears would probably have disapproved strongly of the use of candles in a Methodist Church. Candles now are far more acceptable but still they are not necessary for worship. We cannot be saying that when we light the candle God is here when he was not before, because we do not control God and his presence is everywhere at all time.

Surely lighting the candle is a way of helping ourselves to focus on worshipping God. Candles engage our senses. They offer a presence and light to remind ourselves that Christ came to be the light of the world.

We are now travelling through the season of Advent as we prepare for the coming of Christ, and every Sunday in this season we will be lighting another candle on the Advent Ring. These stand for a different person or people each week. The first is for God's people, the second for the prophets, the third for John the Baptist and the fourth for Mary. Again these are designed to help us in our worship – they are clear visual signals of the progress of our journey through this season. Then on Christmas Day we can light the central candle to celebrate the coming of Christ into the world.

Candles do have another side. Remember that it was one small candle that started the great fire of London. There is heat and destructive power in that little flame. And that too is an important part of their symbolism. As we approach the incarnation of Christ, we are permitted to come in touch with the immense power of God's love that we can never fully understand while we live on this earth.

Perhaps then next time we light a candle, we can remember not only God's constant presence with us, but also all of his power and mystery.

With love and all good wishes

Claire



SUNDAY CLUB

Our sessions continue to be very varied, and our activities are often based on the gospel reading for the day. The children are always delightful and enthusiastic (especially when anything to do with food is involved!) and they always work well together. Sometimes the age range has been from 2yrs to 10yrs, so we're kept busy!

Recently several sessions focused on appreciating the things we have, and we talked about places where people are less fortunate. As a result of this we decided to try to raise £60 to help improve sanitation in a developing country by 'twinning' one of our toilets here at church with one to be built in a poorer country. We made up some collecting boxes, and the Sunday Club 'challenge' to the congregation was to either put 30p in the box every time they use the toilet for one day, or to put 30p a day in for one week, 30p being what you have to pay to use public toilets at the railway stations. (There is more information about how to 'twin' a toilet on the website, toilettwinning.org.) At the time of writing we are about to collect in the boxes and see how much has been raised, so the result will appear in the next copy of 'In Touch'.

Pam Newman Horwell and Hilary Strawson



CRANLEIGH METHODIST CHURCH

188 High Street Cranleigh GU6 8RL

Minister;	Reverend Claire Potter 01483 575667
Church Council Secretary;	Pam Newman-Horwell 01483 274148
Senior Steward;	Jane O'Leary 01483 351651
Lettings Secretary;	David Lipman 01483 278346
Key Holder and Property Chair;	Jane O'Leary 01483 276100

CEDAR COURT – METHODIST SERVICES 2017

Second Wednesday of each month at 2pm for 40-45 minutes

Cranleigh Methodist Church community are invited to attend on each occasion and can be called on to read bible passages.

Date	Leader
January 11 th	Brian Treharne
February 8 th	Claire Potter
March 8 th	Allan Taylor
April 12 th	Claire Potter
May 10 th	Brian Treharne
June 14 th	Claire Potter
July 12 th	Allan Taylor
August 9 th	Brian Treharne
September 13 th	Allan Taylor
October 11 th	Claire Potter
November 8 th	Brian Treharne
December 13 th	Allan Taylor

Michael will photocopy any word for hymns if sent through in advance.

Music provided by Mark Hargreaves.

Leaders : please send hymn details to Mark and to Michael in advance.

Mark 01483 536638

Brian 01483 276723

Allan 01483 200464

Claire 01483 575667

Michael (Cedar Court activities coordinator) 01483 331494



Next issue will cover March, April, May so the cut off date for submissions for articles and adverts etc., will be around 31st January at the latest please.

Our contact details are as follows:

Jane O'Leary - Cranleigh Methodist Church,
c/o The Old Forge, Smithbrook Barns, Cranleigh, GU6 8LH
joleary@oaktax.com and telephone 01483 276100.

MUSICAL NOTES

As always, I publicise concerts put on by Cranleigh Choral Society, because several of our Church members take part in these. The concert at Christmas, when the music is seasonal, is



particularly popular and is usually performed in our Parish Church of St Nicolas. This year the concert is on Saturday, December 3rd at 7.30 pm. The programme includes 'Messe de minuit pour Noel' by Charpentier, whose tuneful, bright Christmas Mass predates Bach by some years and is very easy to listen to. There will also be carols for choir and congregation. Tickets at £12 may be obtained from Teresa, Brian or me.

Our own Christmas concerts are on Saturday, December 10th, in our church, and on Tuesday, December 20th at Elmbridge Village. For the second year running, our first concert takes place during the 'Outreach Tea', because this seemed to be a successful combination last year. We hope to raise money from donations at this event for our Christmas charity, which has always been Action for Children, but the main purpose is to give elderly, lonely people a fun time! We are grateful for support from local groups, such as the Lion Tamers, and Rotarians, and we thank Jane for making it all happen!

We have been worried to hear about slow progress with the alterations at Elmbridge, but we are assured that everything will be finished before our proposed concert on December 20th. If all goes well, we may be the first outside group to perform in the brand new hall! The programme will be slightly different from the one we are preparing for our own church, and it may be that non-Elmbridge residents may be able to attend! A collection will be taken here for Action for Children. Glenda Sewell.

Glenda



CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CRANLEIGH

The AGM of Churches Together in Cranleigh was held at the beginning of October, at which the following were elected: Chair, the rector, Rev'd. Roy Woodhams; secretary, Pamela Newman-Horwell; treasurer, Diana Trent. Glenda Sewell has served as secretary for a number of years, and we are all grateful to her for her generous contribution to Churches Together. She continues to be a representative of our church at CTC.

The Harvest Songs of Praise at the Catholic church was well attended, and Martin Brown spoke about his work with CAFOD.

Preparations for Christmas events and services are well under way at each of the churches. As usual, these will be advertised in the local magazines, also on the special Christmas leaflet which will be distributed in the village at the beginning of December.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity runs from 18th to 25th January 2017, and the Sunday service will be at our church on 22nd January at 6.30pm. We hope you will be able to attend one or more of the events during that week – details are on the attached poster.

At the October meeting, the representatives from the other churches warmly supported Claire's proposed plans for a local refugee welcome committee, and at the initial meeting of that group in November there was a very good response from members of each church as well as from the wider community. CTC agreed that wherever relevant and appropriate we would support and 'advertise' each other's open events and activities.

We have a vacancy for one more representative from our church to Churches Together. If you are interested in this please speak to Claire, Glenda or Pamela.

Pamela Newman Horwell



A NEW LOCAL REFUGEE WELCOME COMMITTEE FOR CRANLEIGH

The Aims:

- To call for the **resettlement** in our area of some of the Syrian refugees the Government has pledged to bring to the UK
- Ensuring a **welcome** – devising a Local Refugee Welcome Plan, which mobilises the resources of our community to provide a warm, distinctive and long-lasting welcome to refugees
- Pressing for **further resettlement** and **better treatment** of others seeking sanctuary

The first meeting of this group took place early in November, and people showed considerable interest and concern for the Refugee situation.

We are now registered with Citizens UK and have arranged a training session with their representative on:

Thursday 1st December 2016
6.30 – 8.30 pm at Cranleigh Methodist Church.
Please join us

This session will:-

- Aim at building power of local refugees welcome teams
- Use the approach Citizens groups have used around the country to get their local councils to sign up to resettlement programmes
- connect local groups to other resettlement teams in the area
- be the primary means of connecting local campaigns to the national resettlement effort.

Please speak to Claire if you would like more information (claire.potter@methodist.org.uk) or tell Pamela (01483 274148, pnewmanhorwell@gmail.com), if you would like to be kept informed about future meetings

CITIZENSUK

This initiative is supported by Churches Together in Cranleigh.
For more information please contact the Rev. Dr. Claire Potter on 01483 575667

CHRISTIAN AID



Our local committee have been pretty active since our big collection week in May. We organised a thank-you tea/entertainment for our collectors, counters and supporters on Saturday, September 17th, when Laura Mead, regional CA Representative, spoke to us about current work in needy parts of the world. We had an enjoyable and informative afternoon.

Church repairs after storm damage prevented us from doing further fund-raising by selling cooked sausages and other food to passers-by on Guy Fawkes night, but we were able to raise nearly £70 at a market stall on Thursday October 20th.

On Saturday, January 21st, we are planning a quiz with supper (as we have done before). We hope to use the Parish Room, because of course we have many supporters in the Parish Church, but we cannot yet confirm this. Please look out for further advertising of this event, and keep the date free!

I would like to give my thanks to our hard-working, loyal committee, who have supported our events well this year, and helped boost CA funds, despite the many calls on people's resources in these times of much desperate need.

Glenda Sewell

THE ADDLESTONE BUS

When the new Wey Valley Circuit was launched, every church gave a gift to another church. We received a beautiful knitted green bus from Addlestone Methodist church.



Many years ago the Greenline Bus and Coach station opened almost opposite where their church is now. It was the first time that buses went to London from Addlestone and this created many jobs for the men of what was then a small village. The father of one of the current church members was one of those who queued for a job as a conductor when the bus station first opened. She is now in her late 80s and she lent us a certificate of service given to her father by the bus company in 1962. So this bus stands for many memories and history – and above all it stands for their community. If anyone would like to develop this connection with Addlestone, you could visit their Saturday coffee morning 10am-12.00, as some of them may visit our coffee morning.

Addlestone

The pictures of Addlestone's Crouch Oak, in Crouch Oak Lane, show how ancient Addlestone (picture from the 1600s) still exists in modern Addlestone (pictures today); and the Weymann's bus represents an inbetween era (the 1950s) when Weymann's Bus Bodies Works in Station Road was Addlestone's principal employer and the buses ran locally from Addlestone Bus Dépôt and in towns all over Britain.



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Our Christmas celebrations within the church and in our families start soon. Our own Church family event is the Christmas Tea and Concert on Saturday 10 December from 2.30 until 4.45pm. Please give your names to Sue Pink (276374) especially if you would like transport. If you can donate a cake or other food or crackers etc, please contact me (Jane on 276100 or 351651) or I will be calling you!

Please do also think if you can possibly spare the time to run the Saturday coffee mornings or offer to provide flowers for the church after Christmas is over. Many hands make light work and your generous contributions, in whatever form they are given, are always welcome.

We will be looking to develop a leadership team for the church in the new year, so please do think if you feel you could be a part of this - 2017 promises to be an exciting year for our church from all sorts of angles, so be in at the beginning and be part of it all!

Jane

WEEKLY OFFERING

We are very grateful to all of you who give to the church through the weekly envelopes. The cost of having these envelopes custom printed is rising quite steeply and so, for the next financial year (April 2017 to 2018), we have decided to use up envelopes that have remained unused in past years. You may find you have a different number on your next supply, but do not worry, your tax details will be recorded against your new number.

You do not have to do anything UNLESS you would prefer to give by standing order through the bank. This has the advantage of it happening automatically without you having to find the cash each week, but still ensures regular giving.

If you bank on line, it is easy to set this up yourself, but if you need any help to do so, Stella would be happy to offer assistance. If you would rather do it by letter to your bank, all you have to do is to write to your bank instructing them to pay a certain sum on a certain date each month.

The details you will require to set up either of the above are:

Account Name: Cranleigh Methodist Church
Bank: Lloyds Bank, Cranleigh
Sort Code: 30-94-41
Account number: 50305868



CRANLEIGH FOOD BANK UPDATE

The Food Bank continues to provide an invaluable service to those in crisis in Cranleigh and the surrounding villages.



Hosted at Cranleigh Baptist Church, who have recently kindly offered us new storage space, it opens on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Friday of each month, with a 7 day a week 'on call' service also available to agencies who notice someone in need of emergency food.

As well as providing food in exchange for vouchers on those Fridays, a drop-in-café is also run in the back hall at the Baptist Church during those times. People who do not necessarily need food, but who would like company and someone to talk to, or even just a free cup of coffee and a piece of cake, are very welcome to drop in. If you would like to see how we operate, please drop in for a cuppa some time.

At this time of year we benefit from goods donated from schools and churches through their harvest festivals and our storage area is full, but during the rest of the year we are dependent on donations through churches, voluntary organisations and the collection points at the Co-op and Sainsbury's. Marks and Spencer also donate some of their left over food.

We are also very grateful to those who give cash donations in order that we can buy items that are seldom donated. We are usually short of tinned meat, potatoes and vegetables, cartons of milk, sugar, tinned and packet puddings and toilet rolls.

If you are able to assist by providing any of the above, please pop them in the Food Bank box at the back of the church.

Thank you for your continuing support – the people who benefit do not want to rely on hand-outs of food, but cannot feed themselves or their families adequately without.

If you would like any further information, please contact **Stella.**

