

# IN TOUCH



**March - May  
2017**

**Cranleigh Methodist Church**

## LETTER FROM CLAIRE

Dear Friends,

This edition of 'In Touch' takes us through the season of Lent to the great festival of Easter and beyond. Lent is a season of penitence as each of us considers the journey of Jesus towards the cross and the implications it has for us. However we are also 'Easter People' because we know that through all the despair of Holy Week, there is always hope. The great truth of our faith is that God, in coming to the earth as a real living breathing human being, defeated even death itself and gave us the assurance that our lives here on earth are only the start of an ongoing journey. So there is never a sense of hopelessness.

In Cranleigh Methodist Church, this gives us a framework for all that we do. In January the Wednesday Group celebrated their 50th anniversary on the very day, 50 years before, of the first meeting of Cranleigh Methodist Young Wives Group. We looked back at the old minute books and heard about vibrant meetings, outings and outreach. Surely we can celebrate that for 50 years, that group has continued to provide support, to develop ideas and to respond to need.

Looking back though can make us feel sad that we are not as large a congregation as we once were, we have fewer children coming, we do not seem to be regarded as a vibrant heart of the community any longer. But we are 'Easter People' and that means that we should never give up hope. If we keep wondering where the new people are who will take over the running of the church, we might stop thinking about what it is God is wanting us to do here and now.

Remember how even after the resurrection, the disciples were huddled together in a hidden room in fear – not leaping about the streets

shouting 'alleluia'! They had been taken to the depths of despair, one of them had been revealed as a betrayer, and it is likely that all of them felt guilty and confused and fearful for the future. Yet it was from them that Christianity spread. We would not be here if they had not got up, received the Holy Spirit and responded to the call of God.

**H**ope is here in our church – seen through new children and families coming to join the congregation, seen in the partnerships that are building through the Refugee Welcome Group, seen in the new people who come to church on occasions because they feel drawn to come, and seen in the ongoing supportive relationships of this church through pastoral care, friendship, conversation and the working out of our discipleship together.

Wishing you all a thoughtful Lent and a joyous Easter.  
with love  
**Claire**

### CRANLEIGH METHODIST WEBSITE

If all goes according to plan, by the time this copy of 'In Touch' comes out, the new church website will be live ([cranleighmethodist.org.uk](http://cranleighmethodist.org.uk)). We hope you can take time to visit this page. Our grateful thanks to Alex Briggs for all his help with this.

Next issue will cover June, July & August so the cut off date for submissions for articles and adverts etc., will be around 30th April 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](mailto:joleary@oaktax.com) and telephone 01483 276100.



### CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CRANLEIGH

**T**he winter months have seen a number of occasions for our congregations to come together.

In November the annual Remembrance Day service was very well attended, helped by the lovely weather, and there were many favourable comments about the service.

At the beginning of December 600 leaflets listing each church's Christmas events and activities were distributed outside the Co-op. All the advertised events were well supported and appreciated.

As in previous years, in January during the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity each church invited members of the other congregations to their prayer meetings and mid-week services. Our church was full for the united service on the Sunday evening. The theme of 'Crossing Barriers' was visually interpreted by forming a wall of bricks which was then dismantled and re-shaped into a cross, and the visiting preacher, the Rev'd Harvey Richardson spoke passionately about the need for Christians to work and worship together.

At the time of writing plans are being finalised for the Easter services, and the leaflet about these will be distributed at the beginning of April. Before then, the 'Churches Together' events in Lent include Vespers at St John's Seminary on Monday 6th March, 8.00 and the Palm Sunday procession (9th April) leaving the Common at 10.00.

We still 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**

## DEMENTIA CARE DVD

I have recently seen a wonderful DVD which has been produced by the first Anna Chaplain, Debbie Thrower, who works in Alton. The Circuit now owns a copy.

This is what Anna Chaplaincy is all about :

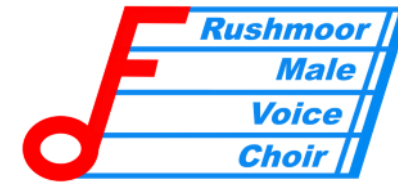
*First and foremost an Anna Chaplain is someone who will listen. An Anna Chaplain is sent out by their congregation to work with people of strong, little or no faith at all. Their task is to promote the spiritual welfare of men and women. Many different kinds of people are involved in pastoral visiting, taking a care home service and offering a listening ear. What is distinctive about Anna Chaplaincy is that it is ecumenical, community based and it takes a narrative approach to helping people navigate the choppy waters of older age. Anna Chaplains are sent out with the authority, credibility and affirmation of the churches in whose name they visit. The community nature of this form of chaplaincy is what makes it so key to expanding ministry among older people. Debbie Thrower, the UK's first Anna Chaplain says: It's like planting a flag in the middle of town and saying 'older people matter'.*

Anna Chaplaincy offers hope to those in later life. It is a gracious gift from local churches to promote the spiritual well-being of older people. It affirms those in later life, helping them to celebrate the gift of life, while not underestimating the difficulties associated with growing older.

See <http://www.thegiftofyears.org.uk/anna-chaplaincy-older-people> for more information about Anna Chaplaincy.

This DVD offers a very careful training resource for anyone who meets people who are suffering from dementia. It gives sensible, practical advice. I know that not everyone will wish to watch it – and I fully accept and respect that. But for anyone who is interested, we'll be showing it in the church on Tuesday 7th March at 3pm. I will also be inviting the other churches to this, through Churches Together. Just come along if you would like to.

**Claire Potter**



Cranleigh Christian Aid Committee is very pleased to announce that the Rushmoor Male Voice Choir is giving a Concert at 7.30 pm on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at Cranleigh Methodist Church. Tickets only £12 (to include refreshments).

Available from Glenda Sewell on 01483 273037.

Please join us to enjoy an exciting evening of varied choral music from anthems and spirituals to show tunes and popular songs. All profits from the event go to Christian Aid.



## REFUGEE WELCOME GROUP

For some time members of the church have been concerned about the plight of Syrian and other refugees, but we have felt powerless to respond. However we then thought - what if we developed work now so that the community was ready with a warm and thought-out response when refugees do arrive in Cranleigh?

Therefore in October, Churches Together in Cranleigh agreed to give their support to a new venture in the village. An advert went out inviting anyone concerned about refugees to a meeting at the church. 17 people came to that first meeting – people of different ages, different interests, and with different gifts and amounts of time to offer. We talked through how we could respond and then had a training evening provided by Citizens UK. The training showed us that Citizens UK is more of a campaigning organisation than we might want to be, but their material and experience has helped us to start.

A further meeting was held in December at which we worked out a 'welcome plan'.

There are now over 50 people who have expressed an interest in being part of this. The group has now formed sub-groups to look at different aspects: initial welcome, cultural understanding, language and befriending, housing, and ongoing support. There is a wonderful amount of expertise in the group. These are still early days, but Waverley Council is now in the process of registering with the Government's resettlement scheme to bring 5 families to the borough over the next five years. We are hoping that, as we develop a strong welcome and support in Cranleigh, those numbers may increase.

A number of people had expressed interest in language support, so this sub-group met together in January, and has developed into the Conversation Group. The group will be inviting any for whom English is not their first language to come to talk together on 'everyday' subjects (and then if/when refugees are settled here there will be an established group for them to join). A 'taster' session is planned for Thursday 30th March, 1.30-3.00 (plus set-up and clear-up) with weekly sessions intended for the Summer Term from Thursday 27th April, same times.

Since our review session in January, Claire has been in correspondence with Waverley borough and Anne Milton, with their replies showing their appreciation of what is happening here. Other group members are busy working on the aspects identified in their sub-groups.

The next 'full' meeting is planned for Thursday 23rd March, and anyone is welcome to attend. If anyone would like to know more or is interested in getting involved, please speak to Claire or Pamela Newman-Horwell.

## CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

A Lady was collecting the Christian Aid envelopes. Calling at one house she met the response, "Sorry, I can't give you anything, the dog ate the envelope."

"Ah," responded the collector, "Don't worry, I have a spare envelope." Back came the quick reply, "It's no good, he'd only eat that one too."

## THE SUNDAY CLUB

The Sunday Club's appeal to 'twin' toilets has been very successful with three adopted and twinned by the direct efforts of the Sunday Club and some of our congregation are doing the same personally.

## ANNUAL GENERAL CHURCH MEETING

The Annual General Church Meeting will be after the service at around noon on Sunday 2 April. This is everyone's opportunity to have a say in what goes on in church and to keep up to date with plans for the future. We will be considering the formation of a leadership team, the election of stewards and church council members and receiving the financial report for the year to 31 August 2016. Do put this date in your diary, the meeting doesn't last too long and you will be very welcome just to stay and listen.

## IN TOUCH

I have been producing the In Touch for a number of years now and every issue requires me to ask and ask for new articles, submissions of interesting facts and features and the same people come forward every time to help me put together the finished publication. I can't remember the last time someone said they enjoyed reading it, or they looked forward to receiving it and I'm wondering whether the magazine has reached its natural conclusion and perhaps we should rely on the weekly new sheet to keep us up to date and informed of events etc., and stop producing the In Touch. Perhaps you will let me know please, otherwise I feel now is possibly the time to cease the publication.

**Jane O'Leary**

## OPEN THE BOOK

Open the Book has been running very successfully for a number of years. Every week, in term time, an ecumenical group drawn from all the churches in Cranleigh goes into each of the local primary schools to present a very short assembly retelling a Bible story in a lively and engaging way. We use a published scheme 'Open the Book'. The schools tell us how much the children enjoy and look forward to these assemblies.

We have reached a point now where we really need some more volunteers to help us as it can be difficult to find enough people for every assembly. You do not have to commit to every week or every session, just the times you can manage. Neither do you need to be a great actor just enthusiastic! There is no preaching or teaching involved although the children are invited to take part in a minute or two's reflection at the end (also in the published material) linking the story they have just heard to everyday life.

This is a wonderful way to join with people from all the churches to share Bible stories with young people. If you feel this is something you could also do please get in touch. We would love to hear from you.

We go to:

Cranleigh Primary Monday morning starting with a rehearsal at 8.45 usually finished by 9.20

Park Mead Monday afternoon meeting at 1.00 usually finished by 1.45

St Cuthbert Mayne Thursday morning meeting at 8.45 and finished by 9.30

Thank you so much for considering all this and let's hope Open the Book can continue to go from strength to strength.

**Please call Julie Connor 01483 273178 for more information**

## CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

**SUNDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> MAY TO SATURDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2017**



Cranleigh Methodist Church has successfully been supporting  
Christian Aid Week for the past 20 years

60% of Central Christian Aid funds are raised in this week

*Jane O'Leary has been co-ordinating this fund-raising for the past 10 years and  
is stepping down after this years' event.*

*She is happy to provide on-going assistance to anyone prepared to take over this role.*

*It is not an onerous task.*

**Could you come forward to assist as part of a small team to  
promote Christian Aid week?**

**It is both fun and rewarding**

**Communicating with existing and new street collectors**

**We need help with:-**

- **Publicity**
- **Displaying posters**
- **Arranging speakers etc**

As you are probably aware, Christian Aid helps the poorest and most vulnerable people of  
the world to help themselves. Working with people of all faiths and none.

**We would love to hear from you. Please contact either:-**

**Jane O'Leary 01483 276100 or Jill Leslie 01483 275648**

## CHRISTIAN AID



This year is the 60th Anniversary  
of the founding of CA. Our

hard-working collection-co-organiser, Gill Leslie, is busy finding out facts  
about former workers and collection-organisers in our village. This year,  
the collection dates are May 14th- 20th. Please help if you can in this  
special year!

Our local committee organized a fund-raising quiz which some of you  
were kind enough to support. The date was January 21st, and was  
probably too soon after Christmas! However, we had 5 tables of 6  
people, and managed to raise £342 for the cause. There was a raffle and  
people paid £10 each for quiz and supper. As always, our committee  
worked hard to prepare and serve food and we were lucky enough to  
secure the services of George Hammond as question-master. Jane, of  
course, did the scoring and adding-up.

On Saturday, April 8th, Rushmoor Male Voice Choir are presenting a  
concert in our church for CA and are donating all profits to our cause.  
Tickets, including refreshments, cost £12. Please support this generous  
gesture if you can. The choir have a very good reputation and we are  
very grateful to them.

Before this, on March 18th, we hope to organize a Lent Lunch after the  
usual coffee morning. Watch out for confirmation on the notice-sheet.

**Glenda Sewell**

**Another Huge  
SECOND-HAND  
BOOK SALE  
And Cake stall**

THOUSANDS OF BOOKS AND SOME  
SCRUMMY CAKES AT THE

UNITED REFORMED  
CHURCH IN WONERSH

**SATURDAY**  
**18th March'17**

**10.00am - 3.00pm**

Dealers and early risers from 8.30am  
Come and take your time to browse round

our new stock of used books. Refreshments available

All proceeds in aid of on-going Church  
refurbishment projects.

Got some books you would like to donate? Please bring them with you on the  
day or phone 01483 892579.

## MUSICAL NOTES

Our Church Choir and helpers had a busy Christmas as usual and fought the more than usually virulent 'bugs' as well as we could! Some just managed to keep going, but not quite at full throttle, but others, normally fighting fit and keen, had to admit defeat by our last concert in the splendid new hall at Elmbridge. However, the Outreach Tea was successful, both in the magnificent organization (thank you Jane and team!), in money raised for AFC, and in the fun had by performers and audience. We had our usual very warm welcome at Elmbridge and very generous response from a large audience who responded well when asked to 'join in', but we missed those who sadly succumbed to a really unpleasant chest infection. Carol Services, both in our own church and at St Nicolas, were well-supported and successful.



Our Church Choir, when unsupported by outside helpers, continues to sing an introit and an anthem in most services but it is difficult, when key people are away or ill, to manage more than 3-part harmony. However, members continue to attend practices on bleak winter evenings, and their commitment is amazing. If any of you, who read this, are able to help, if only occasionally, please do speak to me about it.

As most people know, members of our church choir also sing in Cranleigh Choral Society, so I advertise their concerts in this article. Our concert this term is on Sunday, March 19th in Cranleigh School, and will include Haydn's Nelson Mass and Stanford's Songs of the Fleet (the somewhat loose connection being the sea! – work it out!) Tickets are obtainable from the School, not from us.

I would finally like to mention our talented instrumentalists, whom many of you will have heard play at our Christmas concerts, and also during services, when hymns are suitable. Our organist too is tremendously supportive of our singing, both at practices and in services.

**Glenda**

## CATERING

There are a number of occasions during the year when the church comes together over a meal. Two of these are the Easter morning breakfast (between the two morning services) and the Harvest supper (usually the Saturday evening before the Harvest Festival Sunday service). There are also occasional Sundays when we decide to have lunch together, as well as the community tea at Christmas, Saturday coffee mornings and coffee after the Sunday service. Some of these events are run by particular people or on rotas.

Jane O'Leary has organised the Easter breakfast and the Harvest supper for a number of years and feels now is the time to step back from that. Thank you to her for quietly getting on with that behind the scenes. It is appreciated. It would be good if we could develop a small team of people who would be prepared to run these two events, and perhaps have an oversight role for all of our catering – to plan it for each year and to make sure there are people running each event.

If you are interested in being part of this, please talk to others and see if you might be able to offer this together. Please speak to Jane to find out more about what is involved.

## IN TOUCH DIARY

### March 2017

Sun 5th – 10.30am Revd P Hills, Holy Communion  
Mon 6th – 8.00am Churches Together Vespers at St John's Seminary  
Tues 7th – 3.00pm, DVD produced by the first Anna Chaplain, Cranleigh  
Wed 8th – 7.30pm Wednesday Group – Sewing at an informal Settlement in South Africa, Sue Potgieter  
Sun 12th – 10.30am Revd Dr Claire Potter  
Sun 12th – 6.30pm Revd P Chesworth, Holy Communion  
Sat 18th – Lent Lunch after coffee morning  
Sun 19th – 10.30am Revd Dr Claire Potter  
Sun 19th – Cranleigh Choral Society, Cranleigh School  
Wed 22nd – 7.30pm Wednesday Group – The Cellar – Kath Benny & Friends  
Thur 23rd – Full meeting of Refugees Welcome Group  
Sun 26th – Mothering Sunday, 10.30am Mr J Oborn  
Thurs 30th – 1.30pm Taster Session Conversation Group for Refugees, Cranleigh

### April 2017

Sun 2nd – 10.30am Revd Dr Claire Potter, General Church Meeting  
Wed 5th – 7.30pm Wednesday Group – A speaker from Sayers Croft  
Sat 8th – 7.30pm Rushmoor Male Voice Choir, Cranleigh Methodist Church – Tickets £12 incl refreshments  
Sun 9th – Palm Sunday 10.30 Revd Dr Claire Potter, All-Age-Worship  
Sun 9th – 10.00am – leaving the Common, Churches Together Palm Sunday Procession  
Sun 9th – 6.30pm Revd Dr Claire Potter, Holy Communion  
Thu 13th – Maundy Thursday, 7.00pm Revd Dr Claire Potter, Holy Communion  
Fri 14th – Good Friday, 9.45am Revd Dr Claire Potter  
Fri 14th – 10.45am Stockland Square – United Service  
Fri 14th – 2.30-3.00pm Revd Dr Claire Potter  
Sun 16th – 8.00am Revd Dr Claire Potter, Holy Communion  
Sun 16th – 10.30am Revd Dr Claire Potter, Holy Communion  
Wed 19th – 7.30pm Wednesday Group Members Evening – Bring your favourite book  
Sun 23rd – 10.30 am Mr P Coad  
Sun 30th – 10.30 am Revd B Tabraham

### May 2017

Wed 3rd – 7.30 pm Wednesday Group – Be safe at home – Surrey Police open meeting at Church  
Sun 7th – 10.30am Revd Dr Claire Potter, Holy Communion  
Sun 14th – 10.30am Revd A Taylor  
Sun 14th – 6.30pm Revd Dr Claire Potter, Holy Communion  
Sun 14th-20th – Christian Aid Collection Week  
Wed 17th – 7.30pm Wednesday Group AGM  
Sun 21st – 10.30am Revd Dr Claire Potter  
Sun 28th – 10.30am Revd Cannon Dr S Green

## CRANLEIGH METHODIST CHURCH

188 High Street Cranleigh GU6 8RL

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