



**GODALMING UNITED CHURCH**  
*(Methodist & United Reformed)*

## SERVICE FOR SUNDAY DECEMBER 17<sup>th</sup> 2017 and notices for the coming week

Christmas draws nearer. Today is the Third Sunday of Advent meaning that the third candle of Advent, symbolizing joy, anticipation and expectancy at the soon Advent of Christ, will be lit.

Elsewhere in the Church we see the traditional decorations of Christmas, the Christmas tree with its representational decorations, Wendy's Christmas floral arrangements, the candles for the Carol Service, the Nativity scene and message in the Church window, the Christingles (being made at Messy Church), but also this year we see the floral decorations made by the pupils of Rodborough School for our 40 year celebrations but also relevant to the Christmas period - look carefully at the messages written on the flowers of these decorations.

Maureen Nye, the inspiration for the creation of these flowers writes:

The flowers initially were cut out, decorated with gold or silver ink by writing Christmas poems, verses of carols or secular Christmas songs that held a personal significance for the children to their experience of Christmas. Kath Benny's book, 'The Lion Book of Christmas Poems', was a favourite resource for those children wanting to join in but who were at a loss for words to write. As the enormity of the task became apparent notices went out appealing for more helpers. Year 7's joined in writing, decorating and assembling the flowers.

Help was conscripted for the writing from family members, friends and Godalming United Church members in order to help the children reach their goal of 128 flowers. It was lovely to hear the children working out the writing in order to place the layers of petals in the right positions, especially when the group realised the script and burst into singing or recounted their Sunday School/family experiences. The effort and achievement when they finally set them in the church window arrangements surround our congregation with praise and Merry Christmas wishes for love and happiness. It is also clear that the encouragement offered by church members has enriched the children's experience of the Christmas message.

## 9.00-10.15am *eMerge* (Fairtrade Sunday breakfast)

### **PRAYER FOR THE WEEK**

In the welter of news to which we're exposed, give us ears to hear the personal, human stories. And in the rancour and distrust of our life as a nation, Lord, give us the grace to understand points of view with which we disagree and play our part in bridging divisions in 2018. Amen

Today's stewards are

Vestry Steward                      Peter Radcliffe

Duty Steward                         Sue Weighton

(stewards are the people to ask, if you need help before, during or after a service)

Our CLOSED LOOP SYSTEM requires hearing aids to be switched to the telephone or T programme. Recordings of our services are available through the church website, or a CD copy can be provided on request – please ask a Steward.

The Church operates a system of covenanted, planned giving (details of which may be obtained from Nicola Garriock).

There is a children's area available at the rear of the Church which parents and their young children may use during the service.

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## **10.30am MORNING WORSHIP with HOLY COMMUNION**

|                     |                         |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Led by              | Rev Paul Hulme          |
| Organist:           | Keith Nye               |
| Hosts:              | Barbara & Malcolm Keene |
| Sound System:       | Richard August          |
| Projection steward: | Julie Rowling           |

Call to Worship (the Advent Candles are lit)

**Hymn (StF) 165      Advent candles tell their story** (v. 1,2,3)

Responsive Psalm (StF) 822    (*Psalm 100*)

Prayers    Page 117-118    (*Methodist Worship Book*)

**Hymn (StF) 188      There's a light upon the mountain**

## Lessons

Psalm 42 (p.567) read by Peter Radcliffe

John Ch.1 v.1-9 (p.1063) read by Eileen MacDonald

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord

Congregation: **Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn (StF) 177 Lo, he comes with clouds descending**

## Sermon

Music for Reflection

Prayers Page 121ff (*MWB*)

Collection and dedication of the Offering (*congregation please stand*)

Holy Communion Page 124-127 (*MWB*)

**Hymn (StF) 185 Sing we the King who is coming to reign**

## The Blessing

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Everyone is welcome to join us for coffee or tea or a drink  
of squash in the River Room after the service.  
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## Today

**6.00pm Candlelit Carol Service with Christingles**

There will be **no** Breakfast on Sundays 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> December, nor on Christmas Day. Also not on January 21<sup>st</sup> - the day of the United Service at the Parish Church.

No Friday lunches on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> December – recommence on 5<sup>th</sup> January.

## Advance Notice –

**Circuit Mission Supper and Talk - Saturday 24th Feb 2018**

at Woking Methodist Church 6pm for 6.30pm.

Speaker - Dr Olubunmi Olayisade (Methodist Church Partnership

Coordinator for Africa). Tickets available from Janet Shaw £7 each.

DIARY FOR THE WEEK UP TO SUNDAY 24<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2017

Tues 19<sup>th</sup> 2.45pm Ladies Fellowship - a celebration of Christmas

Thurs 21<sup>st</sup>

12.15 for 12.30pm Advent Reflections at St. Mary's, Guildford  
'The great glad tidings tell'  
Carols – followed by mince pies & mulled wine

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December**

**9.00-10.15am** *eMerge* – Fairtrade Sunday breakfast  
**10.30am** Morning Worship – led by Rev Allan Taylor  
**4.00pm** Christmas Eve Holy Communion –  
led by Rev John Goatley

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> CHRISTMAS DAY**

**10.00am** Family Worship – led by Rev Norman Edsall

ADVANCE NOTICES

Fri 29<sup>th</sup> from 9am Property Committee Working Party

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE CHURCH PLEASE CONTACT:**

|                    |                |  |
|--------------------|----------------|--|
| Minister           | Rev Paul Hulme | 01483 414 709                                      |
| Church Secretary   | Sylvia         | 01483 423 261                                      |
| Pastoral Assistant | Eileen         | 01483 420 459                                      |
| Senior Steward     | Alan           | 01483 860 683                                      |
| Lettings           | Jennifer       | 01483 420 025                                      |
| Web site address   |                | <a href="http://www.guc.org.uk">www.guc.org.uk</a> |

