



GODALMING UNITED CHURCH
(Methodist & United Reformed)

SERVICE FOR SUNDAY JANUARY 7th 2018 and notices for the coming week

Today we celebrate the annual Covenant Service. In 1663 Richard Alleine, a Puritan, published *Vindiciae Pietatis* or "A Vindication of Godliness in the Greater Strictness and Spirituality of it". In 1753, it was again published in John Wesley's *A Christian Library*. Wesley used one chapter, "The Application of the Whole" on Monday August 11, 1755 at the French Church in Spitalfields, London, with 1800 people present in what probably was the first real celebration of the Covenant Service in the Methodist movement.

Wesley found the service rich and meaningful, as expressed in his Journal: "Many mourned before God, and many were comforted" (April 1756); "It was, as usual, a time of remarkable blessing" (October 1765). "It was an occasion for a variety of spiritual experiences....I do not know that ever we had a greater blessing. Afterwards many desired to return thanks, either for a sense of pardon, for full salvation, or for a fresh manifestation of His graces, healing all their backslidings" (January 1, 1775). In London these services were usually held on New Year's Day. Around the country the Covenant Service was conducted whenever John Wesley visited the Methodist Societies.

After the time of Wesley several versions of the Covenant Service were developed, gradually giving Wesley's material less place in the total service. The present service follows our basic pattern of service, enables the congregation to participate more fully, and updates language (the Covenant in normal use today largely dates from 1936). Most significant, the liturgy beginning with the Invitation is taken directly from Wesley's service of 1780 and at its heart is the Covenant Prayer, requiring persons to commit themselves to God.

Alan Steele

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

The New Year is a gate to what we can do in the future. Lord, the light of the world we ask that you may lead us and show us the way. Amen

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

Today's stewards are

Vestry Steward Keith Rowling

Duty Steward Nicola Garriock

(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.

10.30am COVENANT SERVICE

Led by	Rev Michael Hopkins
Organist:	Keith Nye
Hosts:	Sylvia Hunt and Sylvia Kelley
Sound System:	John Drake
Projection steward:	Julie Rowling

Welcome and Notices, followed by a moment of silence

Call to Worship

**Hymn 34 (StF) O Worship the Lord in the beauty
of holiness**

Prayers

The Peace

Scripture Reading

Matthew 2:1-12 (p.966) read by Sylvia Kelley

Theme Introduction

Hymn 204 (StF) In the bleak midwinter

Scripture Readings

Luke 2:16-21 (p.1027) read by Nicola Garriock

Genesis 9:8-17 (p.10) read by Richard Gidlow

Sermon

Hymn 564 (StF) O thou who camest from above

Introduction to the Covenant (MWB, Item 12, p.285)

Prayer of Confession (MWB, Item 13, p.285)

Hymn 549 (StF) Come, let us use the grace divine

The Covenant, followed by a moment of silence for reflection
(MWB, Items 15 B and 16, p.289)

Prayers (MWB, Item 17, p.290)

Offering and Prayer of Dedication (*congregation please stand*)

Hymn 573 (StF) Be known to us in breaking bread

Holy Communion (MWB, Items 21-30, pp.292-296)

Hymn 228 (StF) Hail to the Lord's Anointed

Dismissal and Blessing

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

The flowers today have been given by Shirley Williams in memory
of her husband, Lennie. Arranged by Wendy Weston

Today 2.30 – 5.30pm Pantomime rehearsal

There will be a **church meeting** following the morning service
next **Sunday 14th January**

Copies of the minutes of the annual and special congregational (church)
meetings and of a report on the Away Day are available in the foyer.

Sunday 21st January 10.00am

United Service of Holy Communion led by the ministers
of Churches Together in Godalming and District will be held
at Godalming Parish Church

(no service at Godalming United Church)

DIARY FOR THE WEEK UP TO SUNDAY 14th JANUARY 2018

Tues 9th 5.00pm Brownies (*Alison tel:422841*)

Wed 10th 10.00am Godaltots (*Jacky tel: 423768*)
12.15 for 12.30pm Lunch Fellowship at the Jack Phillips,
Godalming. All welcome

Thurs 11th 4.30pm Rainbows (*Julie tel:428701*)
7.30pm Scouts (*Grahame tel: 01420 475773*)

Fri 12th 10.30am–2.00pm Church open for private prayer
12-1.30pm Lunches
2.00pm Hobbies and games group
6.00pm Music Kids (*Barbara tel: 421268*)

Sunday 14th January

9.00-10.15am eMerge – Fairtrade Sunday breakfast

10.30am Morning Worship - led by Rev Robert Cotton

The Church Meeting will follow the morning service

ADVANCE NOTICES

Tues 16th 2.45pm Ladies Fellowship –Members afternoon – bring and
share favourite CD or tape, poem or picture

Fri 19th 2.15 for 2.30pm QUI discussion group (River Room)

Sun Feb 4th 2.30-4.30pm at Merrow Methodist Church, Training session
for leading prayers of intercession
(see poster in foyer)

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
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