



July/August 2026

Minister's Letter

The last few weeks have been challenging and during these times I am encouraged by testimonies of God doing amazing things today. This story was taken from:

<https://chloesblog.bigmill.com/the-church-moved-by-the-hand-of-god/>

"In 1874, members of this small congregation in eastern North Carolina tried in vain to buy a piece of land from a Mr. Sam Sadler in order to build a church. This lot was perfect – it was higher land than any other lot in town. Mind you, almost all of Hyde County is barely above sea level, so a higher lot was important. Mr. Sadler vehemently refused to sell.

The congregation then accepted a gift of another lot behind the courthouse and soon they had a basic structure for the church. It was a simple wood building on piers called the Methodist Episcopal Church South.

Folks began worshipping in this new church. On the eve of the dedication, September 16, 1876, a big storm was brewing out in the Pamlico Sound. By the next day, September 17, a full force hurricane hit all of Hyde County; Swan Quarter was under five feet of water.

The little frame church began floating down Oyster Creek Road where it bumped into the general store owned by George Credle. Oddly enough, the little church made a right turn and travelled two more blocks. Then it took a turn to the left, crossed the Carawan Canal and plopped itself down right in the middle of the Sam Sadler land where the congregation wanted it to be!

Mr. Sadler then decided to sell, so the little church could stay right where it landed. Henceforth, it was called the Providence United Methodist Church.

The folks in Hyde County *know* it is true. The only part of this urban legend that isn't true is that some folks thought Mr. Sadler *gave* the land to the church. Nope, he actually agreed to sell it to them. The little church now sits behind the bigger brick church as a reminder of what a North Carolina hurricane and God can do."

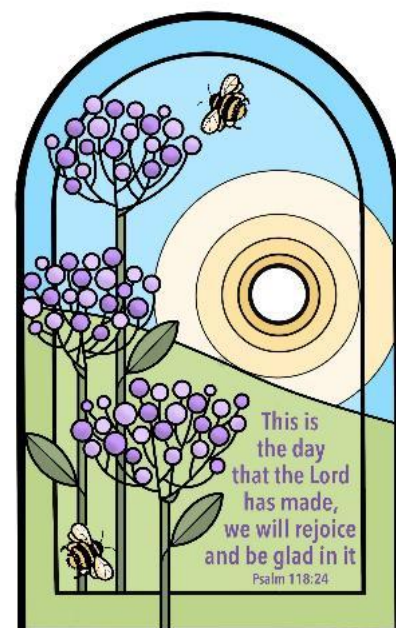
As we take a break over the summer, let us never forget that our God is mighty, amazing and faithful. We are entrusting our plans into his hands and pray that by the end of the year we will have a Mission Enabler in place. God is able! Wherever you are today, be encouraged, God is still in the business of doing amazing things!

Thank you everyone for your support, commitment and hard work.

Have a safe and relaxing summer.

With every blessing,

Vindra



Network Fellowship

This is a friendly group of people who meet on alternate Mondays at 2.00pm. In July there will only be one meeting as there will be a break in August.

Monday 13 July will see us enjoying a celebration cream tea. Before tea we will each choose a favourite hymn and sing a verse or two together. We look forward to your company in the Lower Hall for a cheerful afternoon. Let us know if you are coming please.

The first meeting of the new Methodist year will be on **Monday 7 September**.

For more information talk to Marina Golding and Maggie Turner.

Mid-week Communion followed by Coffee

Wednesday 8 July at 10.30am. Communion will be followed by coffee and a time to talk together. There will be **no Mid-week Communion in August**.

Margaret Hines



Praise Party

Praise Party

Sunday 5 July @ 4.30pm



Small King - Big Things!

FlagsSongsCraftsTea

Thank you

Thank you for the support during my recent hip surgery. The care shown to me in so many ways - prayers, visits, shopping, lifts to appointments etc. has been appreciated enormously. As many of you know, my family live 300 miles away and they are really grateful for the help you have given me on this occasion.

Cynthia Jones and nieces Sheila and Lynne

Local Preacher Training

Over the last six months I have had the privilege of being part of the tutoring team for SunHee Han and Matthew Taylor, both training as Local Preachers. The responsibility of undertaking Local Preacher Training is immense and can require a great deal of thought, reflection and prayer before committing.

The course involves not only a study of theology, but how to deliver the message in several different ways – video, PowerPoint, song, prayers, drama, meditation, symbols etc. In this way the word of God can be enhanced, and it provides a means of worship that can engage a greater number of individuals in a considerate and meaningful manner.

It is not necessary to incorporate these elements into every service; their inclusion may depend on the approach chosen for that week's liturgy. Occasionally, limitations in available facilities restrict alternative methods of delivering the message, and each service presents distinct challenges.

You are welcome to interpret the word and express yourself in your preaching. There is support and guidance available on how to deliver your service, along with regular feedback and constructive assessment.

For more details about the course, visit the Methodist website. In the meantime, can I ask you to remember all of our Local Preachers in prayer, and especially SunHee and Matthew as they continue on their journey towards accreditation.

Jilly Bridges



Bible Study and Fellowship



You are warmly invited to join us as we reflect on the previous Sunday services and take the opportunity to delve deeper into the Bible passages for that week and to pray together. We meet at 21 Waverley Avenue, KT5 9HD from 10am and over the summer months will be doing so on **1st and 22nd July**. Look forward to seeing you there.

We will be meeting for the Wednesday evening Bible study sessions on **1st and 22nd July**. We meet at the tennis club from 7.30pm and are currently studying the Book of Acts. We invite all of you who wish to study God's word to come and join us.

David Fullbrook

davidmfullbrook@gmail.com

Alpha Fellowship

This year's course has now finished, and I just wanted to thank the whole church for your support both in terms of prayer and practical support. The course could not have taken place without you.



There was a real feeling of God at work amongst our guests and of new faith journeys being embarked on. It is an immense privilege to see this happen.

Keep an eye out for details of 2027 Course.....

davidmfullbrook@gmail.com

Sayings attributed to John Wesley

Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike?
May we be of one heart, though we are not of one opinion? **Without all doubt we may!**

Condemn no man for not thinking as you think. Let everyone enjoy the full and free liberty of thinking for himself. Let every man use his own judgment, since everyone must give an account to God. Abhor every approach, in any kind of degree, to the spirit of persecution, if you cannot reason or persuade a man into the truth, never attempt to force a man into it. If love will not compel him to come, leave him to God, the judge of all.

Baptism

Jo and Dottie would like to say a huge thank you to Vindra and everyone at the praise party for making Dottie's baptism so special. We really appreciated being able to have the baptism at the praise party, as this more informal atmosphere suited Dottie better, since she can get very nervous. All the children enjoyed the water theme and learning about why we get baptised. Dottie's Godparents commented on how lovely and welcoming everyone was.

We feel very lucky to be part of Surbiton Hill and the church family.



Hymns for Professionals

Dentist – Crown him with many crowns
Builder – The Church's one foundation
Obstetrician – Come labour on
Politician – Standing on the promises
Golfer – There is a green .. far away
Librarian – Let all mortal flesh keep silent
Optician – Be thou my vision
Soldier – Fight the good fight
Pilot – Give me the wings of faith to rise
Geologist – Rock of ages
Midwife – Unto us a boy is born
Grocer – Here is bread, here is wine

Prayers for July and August

Loving Heavenly Father
There are so many people to pray for;
please help us to pray faithfully.
There are so many situations to pray about;
please help us to pray wisely.
There are so many needs to pray about;
please help us to pray practically.

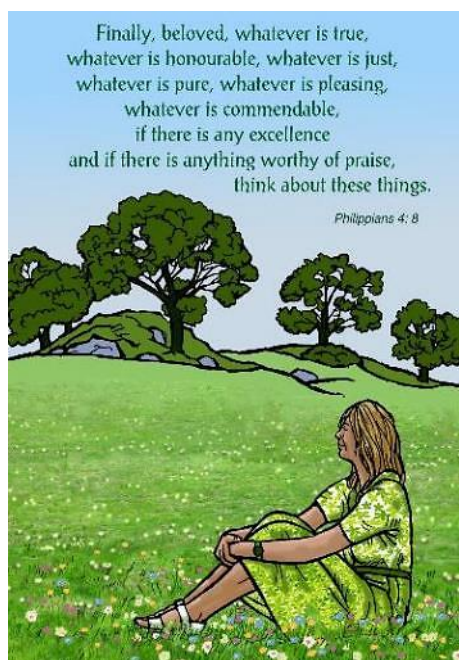
When we say, 'We'll pray for you', help us to keep our promise. When we say, 'We'll remember you' and 'We'll be thinking of you,' may our prayers be from the heart, our remembrances sincere and our thoughts full of faith. We are sorry when we forget. Forgive us Lord.

During these summer months when there are fewer church events, may we remember to contact those on their own, those who might need a conversation, those in need who would love some support. Word of God in whom is life and light, help us to point people towards you. Whisper the name of Jesus into people's hearts to build them up in faith, to nurture their discipleship and to inspire their service.

We pray for those who have attended the Alpha course that they will continue on their journey of faith.

We remember all those who are 'moving on' especially Karl Rutledge. We thank him for sharing his faith in this circuit. We commend him and Sally to your hands Lord, as they prepare for what is ahead.

O parenting God, we are your children by grace, adoption and faith. May our homes be little churches where you are acknowledged, worshipped, loved, and welcoming to all. We ask all this in Jesus' Name. Amen



Church Caretaker

Phil Thorne, our Church Caretaker for the last 7 years, retired in April.

We have now recruited his successor. Steve Blevins (*pictured below*) will start at the beginning of July. He is a retired policeman and until recently had a part-time job at St Matthew's Church.

If you see Steve around do say hello and introduce yourself. He's very friendly and hopefully will soon feel "at home" with us.



Oasis Pre-School

Oasis pre-school is now taking bookings for September 2026. Full and part-time places available.



At Oasis we create a warm and nurturing home-from-home environment where children thrive, grow and develop a life-long love of learning.

What we offer:

- Flexible, affordable childcare
- A warm, home-from-home environment
- Dedicated key worker support
- 90+ years of team experience
- Highly trained, continually developing staff
- Full and part-time places available

Contact us:

07789 383031 07771 882134

oasispreschool@hotmail.co.uk

www.oasispreschool.uk

Room Users

Building Works

The Church has arranged work to replace decaying parts of the Bridge between the top of the main stairs and the Coffee Bar. The contractor started in late June and expects the work to take about three weeks.

During this period the Bridge will not be available for use and thus access to the Coffee Bar will be difficult. During the day there will inevitably also be noise and potentially mess. We are therefore relocating all daytime Coffee Bar bookings to other rooms. Allison will be in touch with the groups affected.

Evening groups can continue to use the Coffee Bar, but their access will have to be through the Parlour and up via the Annex stairs. Bookings in the Parlour will be relocated, and again Allison will contact those affected.

Our apologies for the inconvenience this will cause, but we need to replace the leaking roof and rotting window-frames of the Bridge before they deteriorate further. Our contractor has promised to minimise noise and dust, but apologies in advance to all groups for any disturbance of that sort.

Praise Party Planting



At the May Praise Party we all planted a handful of beans to see if we could grow them and produce a crop! We were all amazed at how big Grace and Alex's plants had grown when they brought them back to the June meeting.

Well done!

Sport!

At the moment the news seems to be dominated by the World Cup. Inevitably reporters look back to the glorious event of 1966 when England won the FIFA World Cup!

Sixty years ago, on 30 July 1966, the FIFA World Cup final took place. England beat Germany 4 - 2. English player Geoff Hurst became the first (and only) player to score a hat-trick in a World Cup final.

Hurst is also the only surviving member of the England team that started the 1966 final, held at Wembley, where England played all their matches. Others were spread around the country.

The 1966 World Cup was unique in that it was the only one in history that had no matches played on a Sunday, because of the Sunday observance laws in force at the time. Professional football was in fact not played on a Sunday in England until 1973-74, and then to a much lesser extent than it is now.

The 1966 tournament was also significant in other ways – not least for the famous commentary snippet from Ken Wolstenholme, still quoted today. This occurred when it seemed the crowd might be invading the pitch as Hurst advanced on the German goal. "They think it's all over!" said KW. Pause, then as Hurst's shot hit the back of the net, "It is now!"

Many matches in the tournament were marred by violent play and contentious sendings-off. Vicious tackles on Pelé, the world's leading player, put him out of the tournament, and one angry player in another match had to be escorted off the field by police. As a result, the yellow and red cards familiar to us today were introduced, as was the use of substitutes. Inconsistent refereeing was also tackled through training and clearer interpretation of the laws of the game.



Before the tournament started, the Jules Rimet World Cup trophy was stolen from an exhibition. A dog named Pickles discovered it wrapped in newspaper under a bush in a South London garden. It was stolen on the afternoon of Sunday 20 March 1966. It had been on public display in a glass cabinet during the "Sport with Stamps" Stanley Gibbons Stampex rare stamp exhibition at Methodist Central Hall in Westminster. The thief evaded the round-the-clock security and ignored rare stamps with a value of £3 million to steal the silver-gilt trophy, which was generally thought to be worth far less.



Ewell Road Surbiton Surrey KT6 6AF
Charity registration number 1127609

Minister: Revd Vindra Maraj-Ogden
07745 205434

Church Administrator: Allison Whittle

Church Office: 39 Ewell Road, Surbiton KT6 6AF
020 8390 4598
shmc.office@kingstoncircuit.org.uk
www.surbitonhillmethodist.co.uk

Office hours: Tuesday 9.30am – 1.30pm
Wednesday 9.30am – 1.30pm
Thursday 9.30am – 1.30pm
Friday 9.30am – 12.30pm

Circuit Coordinator: Michael Axton

Circuit Office: 39 Ewell Road, Surbiton KT6 6AF
020 8390 4598
maxton@kingstoncircuit.org.uk

Office hours: Tuesday – Thursday
9.00am – 2.00pm
On Wednesday and Thursday Michael works from home.

Circuit Information

If you have any news or contributions which you would like to share with the Circuit, please email them to Michael Axton at: maxton@kingstoncircuit.org.uk by **Tuesday 18** for inclusion in the August newsletters.

September 2026 Prospect

Copy for the September 2026 issue should be sent by email to shmcprospect@gmail.com

If this mode of transmission is not possible, please give a hard copy to the editor, Linda Bridges.

The closing date is 19 August



July and August 2026 Diary

Sunday morning worship in church is livestreamed on our YouTube channel. These services stay on our YouTube channel as recordings – you can watch them at any time.

5 July 10.30am: Sally Rush
4.30pm: Praise Party with Sharon Lloyd

12 July 10.30am: Revd Vindra Maraj-Ogden
HOLY COMMUNION

19 July 10.30am: Matthew Taylor

26 July 10.30am: Revd Denis Vernon

2 August 10.30am: Revd Vindra Maraj-Ogden

9 August 10.30am: Duncan Lloyd

16 August 10.30am: Local Arrangement

23 August 10.30am: Revd Vindra Maraj-Ogden

30 August 10.30am: Revd Stan Brown
HOLY COMMUNION

MONDAY 2.00pm: Network Fellowship
13 July Afternoon Tea and favourite hymns

TUESDAY 10.00am: Oasis Toddler Group – every week during term time

WEDNESDAY 9.30am: Mixed Tennis
10.00am: Bible Study and Fellowship
1 and 22 July
10.30am: Midweek Communion
8 July
1.30pm: Ladies Badminton
7.30pm: Table Tennis Club
7.30pm: Bible Study at the Tennis Club
1 and 22 July

THURSDAY 9.30am: Mixed Tennis
2.00pm: Craft and Chat
16 July and 20 August

SATURDAY 1.30pm: Mixed Tennis

Church Meetings in July and August

Thursday 2 July at 7.30pm Leadership Team
Thursday 9 July at 8.00pm Church Council
Monday 20 July at 7.00pm Stewards
Friday 10 July at 10.30am Pastoral
Weds 26 August at 10.30am Junior Church Leaders