



# The Link

CHANDLER'S FORD Methodist Church

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**March 2026**

<https://www.cfmethodist.church/>

CCL 30794

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## Staff Team

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**Jane Padley** (023 8026 6180) Pastoral Assistant – day off Monday  
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The next edition of *The Link* will be for **April**  
Send items by **Wednesday 25th March** to:  
Richard Wright ([richardwright@outlook.com](mailto:richardwright@outlook.com))

<b>Dovetail Centre Café</b> Monday to Friday 9.30 am – 12 noon Saturday 10 am – 12 noon
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*The Link* deadlines (there is no separate edition in January or August):

2026 -	25th March	22nd April	27th May	24th June
	26th August	23rd September	21st October	
	25th November			



**From our Minister**  
Rev Rachael Hawkins

*Dear friends,*

Lent is a time of journeying. How are you getting on with your journeying through Lent? How is your journey through life? How is your journey of discipleship?

In Durham, on the edge of the city centre there is a sculpture called 'The Journey'. It was sculpted by Fenwick Lawson and placed by the theatre in Durham in 2008. It depicts 6 monks carrying a coffin which contains the remains of St Cuthbert and recalls the journey of the monks of Lindisfarne who in 875, following Viking raids on Lindisfarne, fled the Island carrying with them the coffin of St Cuthbert who had been their Prior and their Bishop and was responsible for spreading Christianity across the north during a turbulent time. The monks also carried with them the Lindisfarne Gospels; a copy of the Gospels produced by the community and beautifully illustrated.



There then followed a long journey. They travelled around the north, to Whithorn in Scotland, then south across the Pennines to Crayke in Yorkshire, arriving in Chester-Le-Street in 883 where they stayed for the next 100 years. In 995 another Viking threat saw them on the move again and they travelled to Ripon and then to Durham where it is said that the coffin became immovable, something that was taken as a sign that that was where it was to stay. A Saxon Church was built in honour of St Cuthbert and in 1093 the Normans built the current Cathedral as his shrine.

I had seen the statue in photos, but a few years ago, I was able to visit Durham and took time to find it. It is always good to see these things in real life. As I stood and looked at it, I particularly noticed three things:

► All 6 of the monks had different expressions. I saw tiredness, devotion, uncertainty, other people might see other emotions, but they were all different - it made me think about the different responses that we all have on our journey with God, depending on what is going on at a particular moment, but no matter how they were feeling and what they were thinking, they were still there, carrying their saint, keeping him safe, committed to their task.

► Second was the face and hand of one particular monk – I know its only an artist’s impression and we have no idea what the monks really thought, but I loved the sense of devotion that I saw in his face. Given that the coffin has been moved around several times over the course of a century, it was quite possible that some of the monks never even knew Lindisfarne, but they were still part of the journey playing an important part in what must have been a difficult task. And this monk was clearly committed to his task – this was important to him.

► And then thirdly, was the back view. Each monk was supporting his partner, arms round the shoulder. It’s how some coffin bearers carry coffins today so the artist may have used modern funeral bearers as an example, I don’t know. I don’t know how coffins would have been carried in that era, but I loved the image of the monks supporting each other to carry their burden. Its a reminder that we all carry each other’s burdens, that God carries our burden, that we are never on our own.

I was told that the artist wanted the statue to be in the grounds of the Cathedral and in many ways it felt a shame that it wasn’t there - it would have spoken of pilgrimage and commitment as visitors entered the building, preparing them for going into that place of prayer. There was however, something special about it being in a very modern part of the city – the link with the old and new, that today we continue that journey of pilgrimage, that pilgrims do walk among us in the every day, not just in the ‘holy’ places of this world.

I’m certainly glad I got to see it and would recommend a visit if you ever find yourself in the area.

Blessings,

Rachael

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## Services

### MARCH

#### Sunday 1st

9.30 am Breakfast Church  
Rev Rachael Hawkins

11 am Sunday Worship  
Rev Rachael Hawkins

#### Thursday 5th

10.30 am Midweek Service  
Pat Fry

11.30 am Time of Prayer

#### Sunday 8th

9.30 am Holy Communion  
Rev Rachael Hawkins

11 am Sunday Worship  
Rev Rachael Hawkins

#### Thursday 12th

10.30 am Midweek Service  
Barbara Hillier

#### Sunday 15th

11 am Sunday Worship  
Rev Rachael Hawkins

6.30 pm Evening Service  
Rev Andrew de Ville

#### Thursday 19th

10.30 am Midweek Service  
Rev Rachael Hawkins

#### Sunday 22nd

11 am Sunday Worship with  
Holy Communion  
Peter Castle

#### Thursday 26th

10.30 am Midweek Service  
Sandra Timms

#### Sunday 29th

11 am Sunday Worship  
Elizabeth Britton

### APRIL

#### Thursday 2nd

6.30 Maundy Thursday  
Holy Communion  
with light meal  
Rev Rachael Hawkins

#### Friday 3rd

10.30 am Good Friday Service  
Rev Rachael Hawkins

#### Sunday 5th

11 am Easter Sunday Worship  
with Holy Communion  
Rev Rachael Hawkins

#### Thursday 9th

10.30 am Midweek Service  
Dr Mike Wood

**MARCH****Friday 6th**

10.30 am WdoP Service  
at St Martins (*see page 7*)

1.30 pm Dovetail Group  
Ambrose Chalk room  
*A call to welcome the stranger*

**Thursday 19th**

10 am – 12 noon Cake Day

**Friday 20th**

1.30 pm Dovetail Group  
Ambrose Chalk room  
*Practical advice from the Bible*

**Tuesday 24th**

7 pm Men's Supper Club  
*Tools for Self Reliance*

**Wednesday 25th**

Deadline for the April edition  
of *The Link*

**Thursday 26th**

10 am – 12 noon Cake Day

**Message Board**

The deadline for items for the **April edition** of *The Link* is **Wednesday 25th March**.

**Spring Craft Fair** at St. Andrew's, Eastleigh on **Saturday 7th March** from 10 am – 3 pm. Craft stalls, children's craft zone, refreshments – free entry. If you would like a stall, email: [standrews2.0@yahoo.com](mailto:standrews2.0@yahoo.com).

The (amazing) **Fusion Choir** presents their greatest hits – 'Raising the Roof' for St Andrew's Church, Eastleigh on **Saturday 21st March** from 7 – 9 pm. For more information and tickets, contact: 07512 607 411 or [amandabreaker800@gmail.com](mailto:amandabreaker800@gmail.com).

Peter Pan Preschool are looking for stall holders for their **Easter Fete** on **Saturday 21st March** from 11 am to 2 pm in the Church Hall. If interested in purchasing a stall to sell your products, please contact [Peterpanpreschool@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Peterpanpreschool@hotmail.co.uk).

The Third Anniversary service of the **re-opening of Canada Common Methodist Chapel** will take place on **Sunday 29th March** at 2.30 pm. The guest speaker will be Rev. Dr. Howard Mellor who was the Director of Evangelism for the Methodist Church and then became Principal of

Cliff College. The date is also Palm Sunday which seems appropriate because this was the Church Anniversary of the original Chapel dedicated in 1908. Canada Common still has a story of our Lord's Blessings to tell. All are welcome.

Normally at this time Caroline Husain is asking everyone to sow an extra few seeds in order to stock our plant stall at **Funtasia**. Unfortunately the Parish Council have outsourced the organisation to Dream Events this year and we cannot comply with their terms and conditions. However she is still asking you to sow a few extra as we are planning to hold our own **plant and cake stall** outside Church probably on **Saturday 9th or 23rd May**. Also, when perennials start shooting and you think that your clump is a bit large, could you please dig and pot up the bits you don't want. We will be looking for offers of cake nearer to the date!

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### Service times

Rev Rachael

I mentioned in the last *Link* that we would be talking at Church Council about possibly changing the time of the 11 am Service.

The proposal was discussed at our recent Church Council meeting. There were a couple of points of concern raised, in particular about the timing of Breakfast Church and not wanting that to be squeezed, but overall the feedback and conversation supported the idea of moving the 11 am service to 10.30 am and was passed with a majority vote. The Stewards are now looking at when it will be practical to change to the new time (possibly Easter Day), so watch this space and we will let you know!

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### World Day of Prayer

Janis Chapman

At St Martin in the Wood, Queens Road, SO53 5AG at 10.30 am on **Friday 6th March**. All are invited to join in this year's Service prepared by Christian ladies of Nigeria. Come and be part of a great wave of Prayer which starts in Samoa and ends, 146 countries later, in American Samoa.

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## News from Churches Together Chandler's Ford

Sara Goodhead

**The Carol singing in Waitrose** in December was very well attended across the churches and staff at Waitrose commented that they appreciated having us. The date is already booked for next year, Monday 21st December.

**The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** was marked by our usual 'church swaps'. This year we welcome visitors from St Boniface/St Martin in both the morning and the evening services, whilst Sara Goodhead and Diane Pugh visited Velmore Church. There, it was good to hear of the settling in of their new Pastor, Charles Andrew and his family. The service had a theme of the Christian journey. One thing that I came away with; we were asked to reflect on the words we would use to describe our Christian journey so far and which stage of it we thought we had reached. This was linked to a message based on 1 John 3: 1-3 and 2: 12-14, knowing who we are as God's children. The music was led by a small group of musicians and several people took part in the Service in different ways.

**The World Day of Prayer** has been reinvigorated by some new volunteers to help organise the event which will take place at St Martin's on **Friday 6th March**. All are welcome to attend.

We were also reminded that all are welcome to join in with a special service to mark 15 years collaboration between the churches in Eastleigh borough, volunteering at the **Basics Bank**. This Community Celebration takes place on **Saturday 14th March** 11 am – 12 noon at All Saints Church, Desborough Road.

**Fryern Funtasia**. Despite the changes to the organisation of this event which have sadly meant that our own Church is no longer able to run refreshments, the Churches Together presence will continue this year with the usual stall offering children's crafts and handing out information about our groups for children and families. Volunteers will be needed to help chat with families and oversee the crafts (all the

materials will be provided). You need only give up an hour of your time, please let Sara Goodhead know if you would be able to help.

**Twinning.** This year Eastleigh/Chandler's Ford will be hosting this event in which we welcome visitors from Kornwestheim, and Plaue in Germany and Villeneuve-Saint-Georges in France. It will take place **22nd – 25th October**, and the organisers are very keen to hear from anyone who would like to be involved in this international collaboration and sharing of faith. There opportunities to host individual visitors in your home or just to be involved in helping at some of the local events during the visit.

If you would like to be involved with Churches Together or know more about any of the above, please contact Sara Goodhead.

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### **Methodist Women in Britain**

Barbara Hillier and Joyce Powell

Since Christmas, the Circuit MWiB team have led a Service at Colden Common based around the chosen charity for the year, the *Honeypot Children's Charity*, which again highlighted their work enabling young carers to have a break from their caring tasks at home. Here is a thank you letter to us all at Chandler's Ford:

Dear Joyce, once again I would like to thank everyone who has been involved with your Advent Calendar over the last few months. Thank you for the additional donations we received in the post on 4th February. These cheques totalled £455 and we can claim Gift Aid of £16.25 as well, thanks to those who were able to complete the forms. With the donations you had already posted, these bring the total raised from your Advent Calendar in Chandler's Ford to £1,100.23 including Gift Aid. Goodness, that's fantastic! This will make such a difference to local young carers. This total is enough to provide a 3-day / 2-night residential respite break at Honeypot House for 2 young carers. This is an annual event that all Honeypot young carers look forward to....it is the light at the end of the tunnel that keeps them going during difficult times looking after someone they love. The children bounce, swing, skateboard, go to the beach and other outings, laugh (a lot!), sleep well, eat delicious food and generally have a super time.

You will also help Honeypot continue to support all our young carers between their annual breaks, sending them birthday cards and our Winter Fun Activity books at Christmas time, providing pastoral support to those who need a little extra help and taking groups on Memory Making days out. Thank you for lighting up their lives with moments of happiness that every child deserves. With Best Wishes, *Viv Carter, Community Engagement Officer, Honeypot House.*

You can read more about their work on their website, including a Honeypot Hero short video: <https://www.honeypot.org.uk/>.

Each child is given a little knitted or crocheted bee to take home. Thank you to those of you who have made bees. There is still time to make more before we conclude this year's project in August. The whole Circuit has so far raised over £2,000. So our plans for more events for Honeypot are:

**“Putting on the Ritz”**, An afternoon tea with entertainment at Romsey Methodist Church on Saturday 9th May.

**“A Cream Tea”**, just what it says, at Canada Common Methodist Church on Saturday 4th July.

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## **The Easter Offering 2026**

Joyce Powell

### **Unbound: a gospel that breaks barriers**

Jesus talks about God's Kingdom as a place of release from captivity. The stories in this year's Easter Offering tell of different ways that this is coming true. People across the world might be trapped in many ways - by poverty, by violence, by the actions of others or by their own past. Sometimes the things that bind us are in deep in our own hearts. Through Bible study, worship, art and story, the Easter Offering resources help us to think about God's Good News of freedom. There is inspiration in the stories of others and prayer for all those still struggling for liberation.

For over 100 years, the Easter Offering Service has been a key fundraiser for the Methodist Church's World Mission Fund – a response

to the Easter celebration of the new life of the resurrection. Thank you for your generous support of this service. So please do your best to attend one of the 3 Services planned as our Circuit's Dedication of the Offering:

The first is at Chandler's Ford on Sunday 19th April at 6.30 pm.

The next at Romsey on Sunday morning 26th April at 10.30 am.

The third at Wesley Weeke on Sunday 10th May at 10.30 am.

If you cannot make the one at Chandler's Ford, why not come to one of the others? You would be very welcome.

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### **Arocha Eco Tips for March**

Joyce Powell

#### **Love Where You Live**

The Great British Spring Clean is the nation's biggest mass-action environmental campaign. Since 2016, our army of millions of amazing Litter Heroes has shown they love where they live by pledging to pick more than 4.5 million bags of litter. The Great British Spring Clean is back for 2026 and will take place from 13th to 29th March. Why not try to pick up a bit of litter near where you live? Please be mindful of keeping yourself safe and clean.

If you want to take on a real challenge go to the Arocha website and follow the links to the March Calendar and then to Love Where You Live.

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### **"Caring for our Planet" Saturday 18th April 10 am to 4 pm**

Anne-Marie & David Jenkins and Joyce Powell

We are getting nearer to this special day so I hope you have the date in your diaries and will be there. Posters will soon be out advertising it across the Circuit and our neighbourhoods. Talk to your friends and neighbours and bring them along. There will be something for everyone including the children. And it's all free except for refreshments! Although donations to help cover the cost will be welcome.

Inside the huge dome (which will be erected in Church), two films: 'Plastics in the Sea' and ' Dynamic Earth' will be shown. When you arrive, you will be given a time when you can see the films as numbers will be limited in the dome.

There will be two seminars where the speakers are Ruth Valerio formerly working for Arocha and Steve Collins (Net Zero Carbon Programme Manager, Guildford, Portsmouth and Chichester). In the afternoon they will be joined by other members of Arocha and WinACC (Winchester Action for Climate Change) in a discussion forum chaired by our own Minister, Rev. Rachael Hawkins.

The Market Place will be in the hall all day featuring stalls, from Southern Water to Hampshire and IOW Wildlife Trust, from Repair Cafes to Eastleigh Recycling Centre, among a number of others to help you become more climate-aware and eco-friendly.

There will be a Reflective Zone if you want to be quiet. It is because of God's wonderful creation and sustaining of the planet that we are doing all this. How can we care for it better?

We hope to have displays of poems, photos and posters from children and adults so you can start thinking about what you could add now. Please send to [caringforourplanetapril26@gmail.com](mailto:caringforourplanetapril26@gmail.com). The children will have plenty to do in the Craft Zone although they must be accompanied by a responsible adult at all times.

Refreshments will be served all day from the kitchen near the hall and from the Dovetail (as usual in the morning) with drinks, cakes and rolls at lunchtime. Offers of cakes and help in the kitchens are still needed. Please speak to Joyce Powell if you can help. The Circuit planning team have worked very hard to bring this event together so do come and enjoy, learn and care!

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**Kenya Visit 2025/26**

Susan Gulliver

As I said last month my main reason for visiting Kenya this time was to visit the young people I support there. Hildah came to the hotel to visit

with me several times bringing her son too. He has grown into a very bright young lad of 7. Hildah is trying to grow crops to feed themselves and sell any surplus, but it has been a drought year and a very poor harvest. She also braids hair and does nails and makes a bit of money doing that. Work is hard to come by though, so I guess I'll be paying her rent for some time yet!

Elly Joy also visited me at the hotel. She has just graduated with a BA in business studies from Kenyatta Uni in Nairobi and is job hunting. She brought her gown with her so that we could have photos together with her wearing it. Elly Joy also took me to visit her grandmother using an Uber. Yes, you can use an Uber app on your phone to have a taxi arrive in minutes! In some ways Kenya is just as advanced as here and in fact their payment system, Mpesa, is even more sophisticated than any of ours.

I was pleasantly surprised to find that Grandma lives in a small breeze-block built home rather than the wood and tin hut I had imagined. Her son, Elly Joy's uncle, farms the land around it and his daughter helps care for Grandma when not at school. So, I met Elly Joy's entire family and was made very welcome indeed.

I will continue to support Elly Joy for living expenses until she is settled in employment – with the help of the group of people at church – but it is good to know that uni fees are at an end. The lovely group of people who help me with sponsorship also support Catherine and Jeremy who are resident at St Stephen's, and I was able to spend some time with them both. They are well and fairly content. Catherine still wants to teach, and Jeremy hopes to go into engineering. Both have just gone up into Senior school which doubles their sponsorship as they are boarding but the group were wonderful at increasing their giving and also increasing in number – thank you. You will get letters and photos in due course.

I also caught up with children sponsored by family and friends which was lovely. Others in the group got to visit their sponsor children's homes – a lot do have family, just not anyone who had the means to support them hence their admission to the home.

Some of you may remember Joyce whom we sent to Canada for assessment as she is disabled from a brittle bone disease. She now lives with a brother and his family, is still wheelchair bound but helps support herself by making bead ornaments and jewellery. A couple who had supported her in the past visited. We were also invited to visit Kelvin at his home. Kelvin is the young man who broke his back in a nasty accident involving a motorbike. We have supported him by paying for physio and walking aids. He now walks quite well with a frame and when given a stick by one of our group he took to walking with that. I have a video on my phone if anyone would like to see it.

Kelvin's home is a wooden shack, just one room but it does have electricity. His neighbours are a cousin and a friend, and his brother and family live in a separate building on the land – land inherited from a grandparent. The brother and cousin farm the land and Kelvin is raising chickens. When the flock is large enough, he intends to sell eggs. He was proud to show us around his humble home. As we could see daylight through the rusted tin roof we have since paid for a ceiling to be put in which will give him some insulation, sound proofing and protection from rain coming through.

All told a very successful visit to Embu which we rounded off with a visit to the Ark safari park for 2 nights before travelling home. “Kwaheri Kenya”.



## Women's Fellowship

Penny Criswick

27/1 The irrepressible **Jane Glennie** was our speaker today and came in the persona of Mrs. Cox to tell us all about tea parties and the etiquette of tea drinking. We were whisked back to the 1950s by Jane in period costume. Finally, tea had come off rationing. We were strongly advised to spurn that dastardly American invention the “teabag” in favour of the vast superiority of loose tea.

There was a small tea service to demonstrate to us the correct way to measure tea, fill the pot and pour – making sure that we knew how to stir sugar and hold the teacup. Although Jane does in fact know a great deal about the history of tea and the part it plays in the nation's

welfare, mostly this afternoon was given over to enjoying being a bit of a “tea snob”.

3/2 Today we were invited to bring our own treasured possessions and to get us in the mood, Margaret and Sue and Barbara introduced us to some of theirs. Margaret has a fine collection of mementos from her days of winning prizes at Sunday school, whilst for Sue it was a special Christmas card from her first husband which she brings out every year. Barbara showed us her first printed book on Chandlers Ford – replete with memories of how much work her mother contributed to it.

Then it was our turn in tables of three and four to talk about our item to the others nearby. On my table we had a neat book of wild flowers-printed with copperplate writing and watercolour illustrations. It was Joan’s book of countryside flowers. We also had from Ada a very special album telling us how her granddaughter had arrived three months too early and the photos chronologise her growing and thriving through the years up to getting her degree. But the most impassioned speaker was Heather, who loves tigers and recalled for us the many times her family have visited tigers with her as part of a holiday or the focus of an outing.

10/2 **Bob Powell** was our guest speaker today and his subject was wood and trees. Bob really shared with us his wide knowledge of wood as a material and his deep love for working with it. Beginning with a large wooden cross he made 47 years ago, then onto a series of five smaller crosses each of a different type of wood, Bob shared his childhood memories and experiences with carpentry and then his construction of furniture for the home after he had married Joyce. Many of us were surprised to know that Joyce is so skilful at upholstery and so between them they made a comfortable home. He finished with a reference to Jesus being a carpenter, and a thoughtful query about where the wood came from that he used.

17/2 **Sandy Coates** was our speaker today and an excellent talk it was too – describing the work of our Church with young people. Sandy began by remarking that though we seldom have children worshipping in Church on Sundays, our outreach programmes – from **Dovetots** through to **Youth Club** and our **uniform groups**, involve 150 children and

many grateful parents and grandparents. Sandy referenced her own introduction to Methodism, which began when a friend invited her to the **Brownies** and there began a lifelong story of deepening commitment and involvement.

It was wonderful to hear how her leadership and organisational skills took root and flourished, through to guide leader and continuing with her commitment to youth leadership. She spoke of her first marriage, then her widowhood with two young boys, when she ran her own successful business and finally the years of her marriage to Rev. Bryan Coates, something she would never have imagined given her parents' occupation.

The lifelong friendships that have evolved here proved a sustaining force and when the time came, with our provision for youth services unexpectedly curtailed and clubs abruptly stopped, Sandy realised that this was another time when she should step up.

As voluntary youth leader, and active leader of the Friday **Kids Club**, Sandy feels a huge privilege to be there for the parents, grandparents and young people and clearly all clubs are much enjoyed and have thriving memberships. Children at Kids Club occasionally visit the Church and Sandy likes nothing better than a game of skittles down the aisle!

We meet on Tuesday afternoons at 2.30 pm in the Dovetail Centre:

<b>March</b>	<b>3rd</b>	Jane Taylor – thought for Lent/Easter
	<b>10th</b>	Richard Pitt – Aldermoor Farm: Acre of abundance
	<b>17th</b>	St Francis Animal Welfare – Fair Oak
	<b>24th</b>	Easter Service

<b>April</b>	<b>14th</b>	(Next meeting)
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## Let the wind blow

Iona Bevan

(Printed in the magazine of the IONA community in 1971, when the Iona community was at work in Glasgow and Iona. They were wonderful days for all – Anne Barrett. The words are completely relevant for today.)

Open the gates,  
Weed the paths,  
Break down the barricades  
Of prejudice and pride,  
Demolish our desires  
And let the wind blow.

Let the wind blow  
Into our cosy corners and through  
Our law-abiding loveless days.  
Throw out the idols  
Take away our greed,  
Ventilate tradition  
And let the wind blow.

Let the wind blow  
Where it wills.  
We stand with eyes in Heaven  
And with feet in hell,  
We pray “Thy will be done”  
And walk the other way  
Let the wind blow.

Let the wind blow  
Until we find discomfort.  
Until our tidy lives  
Are ransacked and disrupted,  
Till all is His, and nothing left our  
own,  
Except our need,  
Let the wind blow.

Let the Wind blow  
And take us as we are,  
In the Power of the Spirit,  
That we may share and serve  
The rich man and the poor  
In twilight alley and  
At altar rail.

Let the Wind blow  
Softly on those who suffer,  
That, when the wand’ring spirit  
stills  
The body’s torment, then  
Will dawn  
A firmer faith, a deeper love,  
And healing balm.

**A Good News story of modern technology and science**

Out of the blue, Rev Rachael received an email from a man called Tom. Tom had been brought up by his single mother – initially in London but largely in Ireland, with no contact with his father after an initial visit when he was just a few days old. Through the organisation ‘Ancestry’, a DNA test and the help of a voluntary genealogist, Tom learned that his father, Leslie Robson – with a somewhat chequered past, had been a resident of Elderfield House in Otterbourne, and where he had died in 1988.

Many of our Congregation will remember Elderfield. It was house run by the Langley House Trust – a Trust founded by John and Alyson Dodd. During the Second World War, John had been imprisoned by the Japanese in the notorious Changi Jail in Singapore. That experience left a lasting, deep running impression on John, and he came home after the war with a determination to find ways to offer Christian help and hospitality to former prisoners.

John and Alyson were Members of CFMC and Elderfield was the first of a series of homes set up by the Langley House Trust under John’s founding leadership and commitment, and members of our congregation became heavily and beneficially involved in supporting the residents in a whole variety of ways. During my ministry here I acted as Chaplain to the residents and staff, visited and conducted Services at Elderfield.

I ‘happened’ to be passing the Vestry door when Rachael was reading Tom’s email and she asked me if I could throw any light on Elderfield. Not only was I able to sketch in something of the Elderfield story (it is set out in the book by Diana Norman ‘Road from Singapore’) but also shared that I remembered Les. I conducted his Funeral Service.

Importantly I also knew that one of our volunteers at Elderfield had been Anne Barrett. An exchange of emails with Tom and his wife Thelma indicated that they wanted to follow up the contact and were arranging a visit to try to piece together some more of the story. I invited Anne to the get together which we had arranged in our Coffee Room. Anne had known Les very well and she ferreted away in her vast collection of photographs and found one of Les!

Tom and Thelma were over the moon, and not a little tearful, when they came, and Anne gave them the only photo of Tom's Dad that they had ever seen of him as an adult – the likeness with Tom was clear. I had also managed to obtain a copy of the book from one of Johns' daughters for them. God's providential timing, linked to emails and DNA tests gave them a whole new dimension of the previously lost family story. Out of the Blue – I wonder?



**30 Years On – From the Treasurer**  
chrisgoodhead@btinternet.com (023 8025 2405)

Thank you to all who have contributed so generously to enable us to reach this point. The Lloyds Bank account is:

Name: Chandlers Ford Methodist Church  
Number: **55866960** Sort code: **30 92 94**

The Cake Days are on Thursdays **19th and 26th March**. Please bring donations of biscuits or cakes along on the day.