



The Link

CHANDLER'S FORD Methodist Church

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February 2026

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

CCL 30794

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The next edition of *The Link* will be for **March**
Send items by **Wednesday 18th February** to:
Richard Wright (richardwright@outlook.com)

Dovetail Centre Café 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 -	18th February	25th March	22nd April	27th May
	24th June	26th August	23rd September	
	21st October	25th November		



From our Minister
Rev Rachael Hawkins

Dear friends,

I can't quite believe its nearly February already.

February often feels like a month of transition to me - we may yet get some cold, frosty days. The weather forecasters are suggesting that January will end with a cold blast, but as the month goes on, the days get longer, we start to get more warmer days, the spring flowers show their colours and it feels as though everything gradually comes back to life again.

In the shops February is usually marked by lots of red and pink hearts as we are encouraged to celebrate romantic love through chocolates, cards and fluffy toys. It may not be how you choose to mark Valentine's Day, but it is a reminder to all of us to value those relationships that are important to us. They may or may not be romantic, but we are social creatures and its an opportunity for us to recognise that and not to take those relationships for granted. Its also an opportunity to remember that for those not in a romantic relationship who wish they were or those who are in difficult relationships, it can be a very lonely time. Perhaps a reminder to pray for those who struggle with relationships or to make contact with someone we haven't been in touch with for a while, remembering that God is love and Jesus' command to love others.

February also brings the beginning of Lent. What does Lent mean for you? What do you want it to mean? I suspect that there are few who actually fast during Lent. I often think about it as an opportunity for us to take a specified season to think about our relationship with God and whether or not there are ways that it could be better, a season which ends with our great celebration of Easter Day and all that Jesus gave us in his life, death and resurrection. There will be an Ash Wednesday service on 18th February and a course on prayer through the 6 weeks of

Lent for those who may find those useful. I'm hoping to take some committed time to reading a book that I've been trying to read for a few months (its one of those books that has made me think, so is taking me a while to finish as I keep pausing!) Perhaps you might be doing something similar?

However February works out, I pray that you may know God's loving presence with you in all that you do.

Blessings, *Rachael*

Time of Sunday Services

Rev Rachael

There has been a conversation recently about the time of the 11 am Sunday Service and whether it should be changed to 10.30 am. If I've understood correctly, this was the time of the Service for many years. Moving the service to 10.30 am will have an effect on other aspects of Sunday morning:

- ▶ Our 9.30 am monthly Communion – as this is a 30-40 min Service, this could remain at the same time.
- ▶ Our monthly Breakfast Church – in anticipation, we have begun to invite people to come for breakfast from 9.15 am, but nothing 'formal' starts until after 9.30. We will need to plan the time we have carefully, but our feeling is that finishing in readiness for the 10.30 am service is manageable.
- ▶ Coffee before Service as well as after – How important is this? My understanding is that this began with the move to Services at 11 am. A decision needs to be made as to whether to continue.

Church Council will be making a decision about whether to change the time of the Service at its meeting on 10th February. If you have any thoughts that you would like included in the discussion, please have a word with me or someone on Church Council.

FEBRUARY

Sunday 1st

9.30 am Breakfast Church
Rev Rachael Hawkins

11 am Sunday Worship
Dr Lesley Ritchie

Thursday 5th

10.30 am Midweek Service
Stuart MacLachlan
11.30 Time of Prayer in Church

Sunday 8th

9.30 am Holy Communion
Rev Rachael Hawkins
11 am Sunday Worship
Barbara Hillier

Thursday 12th

10.30 am Midweek Service
Rev John Archer

Sunday 15th

11 am Sunday Worship
Rev Dr Howard Mellor
& Andrew La Follette
6.30 pm Evening Service with
Holy Communion
Rev Peter Rayson

Wednesday 18th

10.30 am Ash Wednesday Service
Rev Rachael Hawkins

Thursday 19th

10.30 am Midweek Service
Rev Rachael Hawkins

Sunday 22nd

11 am Sunday Worship with
Holy Communion
Rev Rachael Hawkins

Thursday 26th

10.30 am Midweek Service
Graham Hepburn

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

FEBRUARY**Friday 6th**

1.30 pm Dovetail Group
Church Prayer Corner
God's heart for the stranger

Thursday 12th

10 am – 12 noon Cake Day

Wednesday 18th

Deadline for the March edition
of *The Link*

Friday 20th

1.30 pm Dovetail Group
Church Prayer Corner
God's message in the Psalms

Monday 23rd

7.30 pm Lent Course at
St. Andrews (*see below*)

Wednesday 25th

2 pm Lent Course at our Church
(*see below*)

Thursday 26th

10 am – 12 noon Cake Day

Friday 27th

10 am WDoP Bible Study
at Velmore (*see page 11*)

MARCH**Friday 6th**

10.30 am WdoP Service
at St Martins (*see page 11*)

Lent Group

Rev Rachael Hawkins

Sunshine and Showers – A 6-week course exploring prayer led by Rev Kate Cambridge, Rev Rachael and Peter Castle in turn. Meetings will be on Monday evenings 7.30-9 pm at St Andrew's Methodist Church in Eastleigh starting on **23rd February**, and will be repeated on Wednesday afternoons 2-3.30 pm at our Church starting on **25th February**. All welcome. Further information from Rev Rachael. We will have some course booklets available, or they can be downloaded from: <https://www.methodist.org.uk/faith/a-methodist-way-of-life/sunshine-and-showers/sunshine-and-showers-prayer/>



Message Board

The deadline for items for the **March** edition of *The Link* is **Wednesday 18th February**

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.

Chandlers Ford Boy's Brigade BRASS BAND
featuring Braishfield Ukulele Music Society



Valentine's Concert

at 7 pm on **Friday 13th February**

in Braishfield Village Hall

Tickets FREE – Refreshments available



Hospitality Sunday

Barbara Lowe

Sunday 22nd February is our next Hospitality Sunday. If you remember, we began a series of these as part of our study of *Holy Habits*. Everyone is invited to be either a guest or a host for Sunday lunch on that day. Prospective hosts, please be assured that the meal does not have to be a roast dinner or any particular format, just some food that you are happy to offer to other members of the congregation. If you are happy to host, please will you indicate your preferred number of guests between 2 and 6.

If you would like to be a guest, please indicate any food intolerances, and whether you would be happy to drive any other guest to the host's home. There is a sign-up sheet on the Noticeboard in the Linkway. Please sign up by Sunday 15th February. The Stewards will match hosts to guests and contact people as appropriate by 18th February.

Good News on our *Thirty Years On Project*

Bryan Coates

It seems to have been a long, drawn-out process, but I am very glad to be able to report on the completion of a number of significant steps that have come under the umbrella of our TYOP.

SUSTAINABILITY. The second block of Solar panels were installed right at the beginning of the whole project, nearly three years ago. However, both a visit from a representative of our Insurers and also a Fire Safety Inspector highlighted the completely inappropriate way the storage batteries for the panels had been installed. We needed to react. We have created an enclosed area round the batteries with a built-in fire-retardant factor which, in the unlikely event of a fire, will ensure the vital element of safety. Most people will never go near this area, but if anyone is really interested, I will readily show them round so that they see where money has been wisely spent.

Of great importance in our cost-saving commitment has been the installation of over **one hundred LED lights** at various places round our extensive suite of premises. Only a very small number of rarely used light fittings remain to be changed over.

ACCESSIBILITY. The Toilet serving the first-floor suite of rooms has been completely transformed with not only a wide door but also an emergency alarm and the drop-down rail and handles needed to assist anyone with disability. A new coat of paint will now complete the job.

Four power-assisted doors have been fitted – one giving access to the lift/stair lobby, one outside the Office/Vestry area, one leading from the Linkway into the main Church Foyer and one at the mid-point in the Linkway itself. They are primarily to assist those with some mobility issues – especially if using a wheelchair. They have also proved useful for parents with children in pushchairs and we have already received several expressions of gratitude for them.

In the case of the doors both in and from the Linkway, they are alongside other doors that can still be used normally. The mechanism

on the power assisted doors is quite sensitive. **Please, if you are using them and have pressed the button, give the doors time to open.** If you try to go through at normal able-bodied speed, the sensors react and the doors do not fully open. If the doors are then pushed, it causes problems with the mechanism.

CRITICAL MAINTENANCE. Flat roofs are notorious for causing problems. You will have read about the issues in schools and hospitals. **The flat roof over the Linkway** was installed to the highest standards at the time. It has lasted for over thirty years. It needed recovering, and we scooped that work into the TYOP and engaged a Contractor. Hopefully, the work we have done on the roof will last at least another thirty years – but I won't be around to answer questions!

In the same vein, the **water heaters** that supply hot water for both the Hall area toilets and the small kitchen both failed within a short period after more than thirty years. There was an urgency because of the requirements of our Preschool, and we were able to react quickly and have new ones installed.

MONEY. As always, members of our Congregation and Community have responded with enormous enthusiasm, inventiveness and commitment and we are deeply grateful for the generosity of time, ability and money through the great variety of fund-raising efforts – which continue to sustain the TYOP. In turn, those of us with responsibility for this area of expenditure maintain a watching, cautious oversight of the expenditure.

Broadly, we have completed all this work within the original target of £56,000. And we have paid for it.

Grants from our Circuit (£8,400) and our District (£16,800) and the money raised through the generosity and commitment of our people on the Gift Day last June almost exactly cover the expenditure! We have a happy Treasurer.

THE FUTURE. Part of the original concept of the TYOP that I took over from Alice two years ago included the **Zoning** of the whole heating system so that we only need to heat those parts of the premises that

are in use at any particular time. The complete failure of all four of the thirty-year- old boilers meant that the renewal of the heating system became an absolute priority through the first part of 2024. We coupled the two new boilers to the warm air heating of the Church itself – a system that long pre-dated the Dovetail Project in the early 1990s.

We remain committed to the principle of Sustainability and the February Meeting of Church Council will have to consider the best next steps in providing warm, welcoming and cost-efficient premises to all who come to us for Worship and Christ-centred hospitality.

Wellbeing

David Wrighton

Although it might seem that little is happening, things continue to develop around the Wellbeing agenda both in our Church and in the wider community, and we were given a timely reminder of what it was all about with Graham Hepburn's service at the end of January. One of the readings was from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians – a letter to a Church which was showing signs of disunity and to which the message was about pulling together and looking out for each other ... not that we're showing signs of disunity!

That is partly what the Wellbeing thing is about – not only about developing a more cohesive offer to people in any sort of need locally, whether it is something minor like finding the right type of fitness class or something bigger like dealing with loneliness, mental health problems or physical disabilities. It is also about little things making a difference. Something which seems inconsequential to one individual might make a world of difference – be life-changing even – to somebody else.

So is there anything which has made a big difference to you, something mainstream and obvious of which you would like to sing the praises, or something that someone has done for you or recommended to you which is not so obvious. As an example of the first, I would like to sing the praises of Places Leisure, the name that the Fleming Park Leisure Centre nowadays goes under. Full membership for old fogeys like me is

not ridiculously expensive and it gives access to a whole range of activities with people who know what they are doing. My current exercise programme has banished lots of aches and pains I have had for months because the instructor listened to what I said and gave me something entirely appropriate. It's also a friendly place – welcoming staff and often lots of friendship groups meeting in the Cafe near the entrance.

And there are already interconnections. I had an “Annual Check” at Fryern Surgery in January, and lo and behold when I revealed that I try to go to the gym regularly, they told me about the “HealthWorks” scheme – one institution recommending another. The aim is to develop that with, eventually, the help of some sort of directory, possibly in partnership with others. There are encouraging conversations going on with, for example, “Social Prescribers” who are keen to gather information about as many sources of help as they can for the benefit of the patients of all the Local GP surgeries, who work together on this. Similar conversations are beginning with non- Church groups that use the premises, which our Minister Rachael will possibly be doing. We're talking with outside groups, too. So if you know of anything which deserves a mention, let us know – us being David Wrighton, Sara Goodhead or Esther Ridsdale.

And finally, anybody fancy getting involved in the sensory garden idea? An idea which surely becomes all the more attractive as we move towards Spring.

World Day of Prayer

Janis Chapman

At St Martins 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.

Come and join us for a **Bible Study Reflection** held at Velmore Chapel, Falkland Road, SO53 3GA 10 am for 10.30 am on **Friday 27th February**.

Methodist Women in Britain

Joyce Powell

First of all, a huge thank you for your generous donations to the *Honeypot Children's Charity* using the Advent Calendar. So far £585.45 has been sent to them from our Church which is a wonderful sum. More is coming in and, if you have not given yours in, please do so as soon as you can.

Our Winchester, Eastleigh and Romsey Circuit has raised over £1,500 through the Advent Calendar and other donations. Above all I hope the calendar opened up some new thoughts for you as we travelled through Advent. How I wish we knew more about Jesus' childhood!

More ways to raise money for this charity are being planned so do look out for them in the next few months.

Arocha Eco Tips

Joyce Powell

This Lent, take part in Climate Steward's Carbon Fast. Lent is a time when Christians traditionally fast and focus on God. The Carbon Fast will help you consider ways to live more simply, give you new ideas to cut your carbon footprint and invite you to focus on God and consider the whole of his creation.

Beginning on 5th March, you'll receive a weekly email containing key facts, suggestions for how you could reduce your carbon footprint and a prayer to lead you through this Lenten season.

Each week features a different theme designed to help us take climate action in manageable ways that bear witness to a God who has promised to restore all of his creation. Find out more and sign up at:

<https://climatestewards.org/resources/carbon-fast-for-lent/>

“Caring for our Planet”

Joyce Powell

This Circuit free Eco Event on Saturday 18th April from 10 am to 4 pm is now not too far away. Soon there will be attractive posters displayed which will tell you more than I have in recent The Links so look out for them. I am now asking for your help, particularly, in two areas.

Firstly, the Dovetail Cafe will be open as usual on the morning but we will also be offering drinks and light refreshments from the small kitchen near the hall. So, I would like offers of help from you to serve for a time in this kitchen which will be open all day. An hour or two would be great. Then in the afternoon, to serve in the Dovetail kitchen. Also, please could I have offers of homemade cakes or cookies.

Secondly, do we have any qualified first aiders who would be willing to be on site? Again, for an hour or two. Please let me if you can help in either of these ways as soon as possible.

Remember this is not an event just for Christians but for the whole community to find ways to help in this time of climate crisis, probably saving money as they do it. So tell your neighbours and friends to come along. We will be witnessing to our belief that God created the world and sustains us in it but that we are trying to join Him in its preservation.

Kenya Visit 2025/26

Susan Gulliver

Jambo

Although Kenya Projects UK was wound up 3 years ago some of us wanted to visit the youngsters we sponsor at St Stephen’s children’s home. We ended up taking 4 new people with us who really wanted the full ‘team experience’ and so we organised a pool party at the hotel for the children and staff and on another day we attended the full Thanksgiving Service, speeches, presentations, meal and celebration party at the home. We also organised and paid for the renovation and

new equipment in the playground using our own money and that given by people who had guessed we would find something to spend out on.

A small group also visited the local hospital taking gifts with them and we all visited Gatondo clinic which is owned by St Stephens and until recently was rented out to a hospital group. Sadly, it is boarded up at present while they look for a new tenant. The home still grow crops on the fields around the clinic and the bore hole we had dug there is still in operation. There is a small community living there, running the shops on the roadside and care-taking the site and it was lovely to meet with them.

St Stephens itself is gradually turning into a school. It has had nursery classes for many years – we painted them 10 years ago – taking in fee paying children from the surrounding area. They have now added a playgroup and are adding a primary class each year as the nursery children grow so that they can continue their education at St Stephens and St Stephens children do not have to go out to school. They anticipate less children in the home in the future as the government has decided that foster care is better for children than care in institutions. They are still likely to be used for temporary care while foster homes are found but possibly not for long term care. Buildings will gradually be turned into classrooms and teachers employed as need arises. Apart from the playground they passed the schools inspection.

Before going out to Kenya we had been contacted by a man who has been a long- time supporter of St Stephens, Utugi (the boy's home we have visited in the past) and many other homes in Kenya. We met with him and a young man that I had met at Utugi some years ago. Joel is now working for a charity called KESCA, Kenya Society for Care Leavers, a self-help group which aims to support, encourage and empower those that have left care institutions. There is a group in the neighbouring county but none in Embu County and they wanted our help to set one up with St Stephens alumni. We gathered a small group and got them on board, then using their WhatsApp group we were able to get 25 to a meeting with Joel at the end of which nearly all signed up.

There is now a KESCA group in Embu registered with the government and with over 20 paid up members. More work than we had bargained for but felt very worthwhile.

Both Hildah (and her brother) and Elly Joy attended and signed up which brings me to the main reason for my visit, which was to spend time with those I sponsor and support. But I've run out of space so I'll save that for the next *Link*.

Springboard
David Wrighton

**But what does Springboard do?
... (and how might you be able to help?)**

Springboard is a charity which came in to our Church premises in 1993 at the very beginning of the life of the Dovetail Centre. It was seen very much as part of the “for the Community” offer at the time, and has been active for those thirty plus years. Most recently, it has provided a unique blend of careers guidance and counselling to support people who need to find work or improve their work situation. At the time we started this unique blend, other providers of back to work support would have sent people away to sort themselves out with counselling or whatever rather than help deal with any “problem”. Strangely enough, it proved more effective to deal with it all together.

Over the last 15 years Springboard has supported 746 beneficiaries with its empathetic approach, listening to people so as to identify what they really want to do with their lives. Our follow-up identified that 75% of those achieved a positive outcome – that is obtain new jobs, start a business, commence training or retain/improve an existing job despite difficult circumstances. All of these, of course, will have a big effect on a person's wellbeing, which is one of the Church's main aims at the moment, and many of those clients will have had low self-esteem, mental health issues, even a criminal record.

Many of our beneficiaries do not qualify for support from other agencies. We have never charged for our support as most are in

financial hardship because of their employment situation. We have relied on charitable donations to operate. This is becoming increasingly difficult for everyone at the moment, so we are asking for small donations from those who can afford it.

On that sort of note, there might be something you could do to help if anything here speaks to you! We have a JustGiving page where you could make a donation, particularly if you have benefitted from our services: <https://www.justgiving.com/charity/springboard-etg> - donations of other sorts would be accepted, but GiftAid can come automatically with JustGiving if it is authorised.

And we could do with more people – volunteers. Are you interested in this general area of need and could you become a trustee? Are you a treasurer in hiding? Could you help with publicity or general administration? You might be able to do quite a lot for us without spending too much time on it ... and enjoying it at the same time! Do get in touch – davidwrighton34@btinternet.com.



Women's Fellowship

Penny Criswick

2/12 This afternoon we were treated to some beautiful A Capella singing from *Singing by Sound*. Wearing magnificent Christmas jumpers and memorable Christmas hats, this ensemble of seven gentlemen had been put together especially for the afternoon. So proficient were the singers that you would never have guessed it! Barber-shop style was their speciality and very pleasing the voices and harmonies were too. We had a real range of songs, including some not Christmassy ones. We were provided with song sheets to join in with the carols and Christmas songs, when some backing tracks were used (though the technology had a few gremlins). Clearly, they all enjoyed singing and there was wit and humour in the mix. We will be delighted to have them back at some future date.

9/12 Today was our Christmas party, but before tucking into the goodies we thanked the renowned catering team who had laid out the feast and would bring the tea round. Then we were entertained by our

original dynamic duo, Margaret and Barbara – with Margaret doing the singing and Barbara the talking bits in between.

First Margaret surprised us with a song about Santa, written by Bob Dylan. Then Barbara read “Help wanted” describing the demise and decline of senior sledge pullers (reindeer). That set the pattern with Barbara quoting some choice stories from Gervais Phinn about the unscripted things children say and do during their Nativity plays. Margaret sang some Christmas songs, but the best was her own version of “*The twelve days of Christmas*”, describing the types of gifts families give women of a certain age or more:

1. a pair of bathroom scales
2. two flannel nighties
3. Three knitted hats (etcetera)

It was a pretty comprehensive list and all with a witty comment or suitable expression. We were very much amused. You had to be there to appreciate just how good it was. Margaret finished with “Chestnuts roasting on an open fire”.

8/1 Today **Viv Carter**, the manager of *Honeypot Charity* for young carers in the New Forest, came to talk to us as this is our chosen charity of the year. Viv has worked for Honeypot for nine years and told us how the charity exists to provide a respite break for young carers, aged 5 to 13. They come for a fun packed break to Honeypot House where there are several acres of woodlands, fields and everything in the way of outdoor equipment from trampolines to skateboards to water-play. There are indoor craft activities and a sensory room too. The children are collected by minibus in groups of twelve and have three adults managing their fun packed breaks. The idea is to give children whose home life involves shouldering all the chores and cares an adult normally takes on in a family, a chance to enjoy being children and have a two night sleepover with friends away from home. The aim is to build a brighter future and provide happy childhood memories for them. Viv told us several heart rending examples of children from as young as 5 who take on this role.

There are one million child carers in Britain, and the effect of these brief periods of respite can be transformative. Child carers may underperform in school, or have to be absent. They may be tired, or have no opportunity to socialise outside of school. These breaks give them something to look forward to and a chance to do things most children take for granted. The charity has grown and is still growing, with the help of donations from those who are moved to support this worthwhile cause.

Barbara Hillier was speaking to us today and her subject was her personal treasure collection. Ornithological Barbara began with her childhood memories of the very varied habitats Chandler's Ford offered in those days – wetlands to woodlands, and her parents teaching her about birds (father) and flowers(mother) and how she learned to use her eyes and ears to recognise birdsong, flight paths, plumage and nests, long before binoculars or telescopes were readily available. To this day she first uses her eyes and ears to detect birds at a site, before employing any of the wonderful new technologies. We were shown her first and second bird book, age six and seven.

Chairperson Barbara next told us about the many Societies and Trusts she has led or served, over an impressive number of years. For example: the Eastleigh and Chandler's Ford Wildlife Trust, the RSPB, which she has organised talks for and led walks for over 30 years. Her treasures include a beautiful red kite brooch and framed certificates, which were presented to her as a way of thanking her for all the dedication and leadership over the years. A signed certificate was a reminder of leading groups of Young Explorers, along with Chris Packham, on Bird Trails.

Next teacher Barbara had some personal memories, amusing anecdotes and gifts from some ex-pupils. Lastly Barbara reminded us how her faith underpinned all her treasures with some items recalling her church life – the Bible she was gifted for First Class Honours in Scripture Studies along with another Bible which contained her qualifying as a preacher certificate, and then her preaching accreditation certificate. In short, we had a snapshot view of the

favourite treasures which Barbara has at her home and is both fond and proud of. We finished on a note about her younger sister, who trained as a PE teacher and went on to become a track judge at the Olympics – being there to see Mo Farah win a gold medal for Britain! The photos of them together as young siblings and her sister on the Olympic track, were something unforeseen to us. Barbara also brought her daughter Jo's graduation photograph book, which recorded a very happy day.

20/1 Today **Rachael Hawkins**, our Minister, gave us a wonderful talk on Ghana. We had a map to show us the country and a wealth of colourful and vivid photos and videos to illustrate the talk. Rachael gave a real insight into the work of the Methodist church in Ghana. It is a very important, growing and thriving concern there. Rachael was part of a group of 6 Methodists, touring in a minibus to visit part of the wealthy southern coast, and then travel north to visit some more rural villages. We began at an orphanage. Then we saw many new churches with some still being built, schools and medical centres. They took with them: sweets, laptops and funding to help with tertiary education. We saw colourful congregations, with their cheerful singing and dancing as well as choirs of young people, a boys brigade band and a lot of very well presented children and young people. Then it was back to Accra the capital, and the trip north. Along the way, they stopped at Cape Cod Chapel – a sombre reminder of the horrendous conditions black slaves were subjected too, but not without hope – hope that it won't be repeated. Along the way, Rachael met with a bishop and saw the magnificent Wesley Towers. This luxurious, fourteen storey building has an auditorium, guest suites and conference centres. The top part is let out as office space to fund the church building beneath!

Rachael also showed us photos of the roadside markets which can sell anything from washing machines to snails, sundresses to mattresses! Rachael also had a table display of beautiful handmade items, given to her as presents, for us to look at. It was clearly a colourful and worthwhile trip and Rachael did do a bit of preaching on one occasion, but didn't stay all morning at church like the congregations there!

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

February	3rd	Members' afternoon: A walk down Memory Lane
	10th	Rev Bob Powell
	17th	Sandy Coates – Update on our Youth Work (B&B for Action for Children)
	24th	Peggy Marten entertains
March	3rd	Jane Taylor – thought for Lent/Easter



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 **12th and 26th February, 19th and 26th March**. Please bring donations of biscuits or cakes along on the day.

Sandy's Sponsored Swims Challenge for *Thirty Years On*

I never cease to be amazed at the love, support and generosity of the members and community of CFMC! Thank you so very much for all the donations for my Swim Challenge which I completed on the 29th December at Milford-on-Sea.

I am delighted to report that, as of 21st January, I have collected just over £1,500, and I hope to add at least another £200 to that total. **Thank you all** for your encouragement and generosity – Sandy Coates.

Stop Press

Care for Creation Forum at Saint Boniface Church at 7 pm for 7.30 pm on **Tuesday 10th February**. Join us for a chat over coffee (or tea) and cakes and then an inspiring community forum bringing together councillors from all three tiers of local government serving Chandler's Ford – Parish, Borough and County. Together, we'll explore how we can work collaboratively to protect and nurture the environment.