

STAINES & FELTHAM METHODIST CIRCUIT

**Easter Offering Service**

Thursday 10 May at 2.30pm

Laleham Methodist Church

'Entertaining Angels' - with Ruth Midcalf

Service followed by tea

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WENDOVER ROAD METHODIST CHURCH

SATURDAY 12 MAY

SUNDAY 13 APRIL

OPEN CHURCH

AFTERNOON TEA

11.00 am – 1.00 pm

3.00 pm – 4.30 pm

WITH A FRIENDLY GROUP OF PEOPLE

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**SPRING CHARITY CONCERT**

in support of Christian Aid

UNITED CHURCH OF EGHAM

Saturday 12 May

4.00pm – 6.00pm

Classical works performed by

Royal Holloway Music Students

Retiring donations will go to Christian Aid

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**St Jude's United Church**

Englefield Green

**2012 Concerts**

Saturday 5 May

Saturday 19 May

River City Saxes

James Kirby - pianist

4.00 pm

# MAY 2012

May Message from the Manse

Archbishop Desmond Tutu once said that those who say Politics and Religion don't mix must be reading a different bible from his.

The present controversy over the latest government tax policy of cap relief on charitable giving is a case in point. I have heard many variations of interpretation of Jesus' teachings on money and wealth.

The most popular ones are, 'Truly I tell you, it will be hard for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God'. (Matthew 19:24-25). This is also found in the other synoptic gospels of Mark 10:25 and Luke 18:25.

A popular interpretation is that Jesus was using this as an analogy of a narrow gate in Jerusalem called, 'The Eye of the Needle'.

Also Luke gave another of his teaching about wealth in the parable of a rich man and Lazarus in Luke 16:19-31.

Whatever way we look at it, it is not a ringing endorsement of the rich.

The reality is that there is a wide disparity between the rich and the poor worldwide which should be redressed, even in so called egalitarian societies such as of Communist China and democratic Russia.

In its attempt to redress this disparity in this country and in order for those in the upper echelon of the income bracket to contribute more, the government aims the rich to contribute more in the form of tax.

An individual donates £8m to charity and the charity can claim £2m back as Gift aid. and the individual pays nothing for that amount as tax

In the existing budget, if that same individual pays £8m in 2013/14 the HMRC can recoup the £2m that the charity gets as Gift Aid from the Individual.

The long and short of this without the mathematics is that such proposals would serve as a disincentive to charitable giving.

This would adversely affect charities such as universities (scientific research), churches, the poor and vulnerable nationally and internationally.

Theologically let us examine the context of Jesus' teachings about riches and wealth. The notion about wealth in Jesus' day was that it was a blessing from God. From Job, the oldest book in the bible, to the Roman occupation this was the common view.

In the main, Jesus actually encouraged wealth creation in the parable of the talents for example. (Matthew 25:14-30)

The result of making the most of our talents could make Christians, billionaires, presidents, prime ministers, pop stars etc resulting in power, influence and authority.

In one of his famous sermons on the use of money, John Wesley quotes Luke 'And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes (NRSV). Wesley interprets this passage succinctly by saying, 'Earn all you can (not dishonestly though), save all you can and give all you can'.

The impact of philanthropic giving cannot be underestimated. I am sure if Jesus was here he would have commended people like Bill Gates and all the others who are helping to make the lives of many worth living.

The truth of the matter is that Jesus was more concerned with the ATTITUDE of the rich rather than the wealth per se. In a society where free giving was rare, Jesus was concerned about their attitude. Jesus commended the widow for contributing more proportionately of her income than the rich which is presently the case in this country.

I cannot end this message on this topic without making reference to the owners of White Star Line, the owners Titanic. They are arrogant and pompous to say the least.

## THE IDEAL CHURCH SHOW

Christian Resources Exhibition, Sandown Park, Esher  
350+ exhibitors with everything to equip and inspire your Church.

80+ seminars, and specialist exhibitions.

8th – 11th May 2012

Tuesday 8th 11am – 6pm

Wednesday 9th 10am – 5pm

Thursday 10th 10am – 5pm,

Friday 11th 10am – 4.30pm

Prices – from £5 to £7, depending how you book – cheaper if you're over 60 or in a group of 5 or more and free under 16.

On line: [creonline.co.uk/tickets](http://creonline.co.uk/tickets) By phone 0800 651 0014

(Why not St Jude's go in a group? Contact Rita Berry if you would like to, and what day(s) you can go.

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A young woman teacher with obvious liberal tendencies explained to her class that she is an atheist. She asks her class if they are atheists too. Not really knowing what atheism is, but wanting to be like their teacher, their hands shoot into the air.

There is, however, one exception. A beautiful girl named Lucy has not gone along with the crowd. The teacher asks her why she has decided to be different.

'Because I am not an atheist.'

'Then,' asks the teacher, 'what are you?'

'I'm a Christian.'

The teacher is a little perturbed now, her face slightly red. She asks Lucy why she is a Christian.

'Well, I was brought up knowing and loving Jesus. My mum is a Christian, and my dad is a Christian.'

The teacher is now angry.

'That's no reason', she says loudly.

'What if your mum had been a moron and your dad had been a moron.

What would you be then?'

After a pause and a smile.

'Then', said Lucy, 'I'd be an atheist.'

**Visit to Spring Harvest**

Four of us from the United Church went to the first week of Spring Harvest 2012, having previously enjoyed Easter People which no longer takes place. Spring Harvest is a Christian Conference that is held at Butlins in Minehead and is for all ages.

We were blessed most of the time with good weather and enjoyed the Bible Teaching each morning and the evening worship. We dipped into one or two and heard some interesting discussions.

I would like to share an article from day 5's news letter; it was entitled 'God's audacious dream'.

'There is a legend in the world of confectionary that tells us that Liquorice Allsorts were once sold as a range of separate sweets, until one day a salesman dropped all his jars, and the sweets got jumbled up together. He gathered the newly mixed Allsorts and the rest, as they say, is history.

If the story is true then it comes remarkably close to God's actions in bringing the Church to birth. From the beginning people who had been used to living in different jars found themselves mixing with 'all sorts' of people from other jars, before long the followers of Jesus dreamed of one, new, world-wide family with people from every tribe and tongue and nation.

Welcome to the most diverse religious movement in history. Welcome to the Church.'

We took a morning off to visit Lynmouth and walked a short distance up stream in glorious sunshine and I ended up with a cream tea for my lunch – what else? We also walked along the promenade and to the end of the harbour wall at Minehead.

We were self catering and I think we all agreed we have never eaten so well. Ann's cooking set the smoke detector off several times and her gluten free Yorkshire puddings went down like lead balloons. I managed to caramelize the celeriac by turning on the wrong hot plate and forgot the water –it tasted ok.

Paul learnt a lot about us during the course of the five days but I'll leave him to tell you about that - and we all enjoyed his company.

For families there were lots of things to do including the Butlin's fun fair, swimming pool and the hire of scooters which every child seemed to avail themselves of, making a walk from a to b seem pretty hairy. .

Janet Figgins

When an officer was asked by an elderly lady about the rumour that the Titanic was unsinkable, the officer replied; 'Madam, even God could not sink this ship'. As the saying goes, 'man proposes, God disposes'.

'But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well'.

It is when we strive for earthly things and disregard the giver and creator of our talents that caused such criticisms from Jesus.

The leaders of most of the charities including universities such as Oxford and Cambridge, the Church of England and many across the political spectrum have called for a rethink of this new tax.

It is claimed that there are a number of other ways in which the rich and powerful could avoid paying tax, apart from giving to charities. If this loop-hole is closed the losers would be the charities.

But is it inevitable that the down trodden should lose out?

How about this, 'Pay attention to how you listen; for to those who have, more will be given; and from those who do not have, even what they seem to have will be taken away'. (Luke 8:18).

Confused? Don't be! I can explain.

By the way you are reading MAY's edition of Forum? MAY-BE not.

Confused? Don't be - I can explain.

Have a blessed month.

Beale

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**STAINES & FELTHAM METHODIST CIRCUIT**

**WESLEY DAY – MONDAY 21 MAY**

**Bring and Share Meal**

**Staines Methodist Church,**

**7.15 pm for 7.30 pm**

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All the good from the Saviour of the world is communicated to us through this book.

Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865), sixteenth US President

**From The Village Centre.....**lots of exciting news to share with you in the hope that not only will you also be excited at what God is doing here but that you will also join us in praying for the success of the following new initiatives:

**Cookery course for unemployed young people.** Working with the Princes Trust and Egham United Charities it is possible that we will soon be able to offer a 8-10 week cookery course. Not only will the young people learn cookery skills but they will, hopefully, also learn a lot about themselves. The aim is to teach them about nutrition, cooking skills, creativity, numeracy, reading, team work and self worth. This is a great opportunity to show young people that they are valued and important. Please pray for the right young people to come forward and for Di Lewis who will be leading the course.

**Movie nights:** with our great AV equipment it has been one of my dreams to make better use of this equipment for the benefit of the community. So with the help of David Humphrey, a local resident, who has put in several hours researching copyright etc, we are pleased to be able to offer a monthly movie night at the Village Centre. April's film was 'My Week with Marilyn' and May's film will be shown on **Saturday 26 May**. We are not allowed to advertise the film but by enquiring at The Village Centre or by emailing **screenintimes@gmail.com** you can receive information.

**Messy Church:** As I write this our meeting regarding starting Messy Church is still to take place, but there is a lot of interest from parents and as long as we can build a good enough team I think this would be a wonderful way of enabling young families to engage with bible stories through craft, games, singing and generally having fun. Again, your prayers would be appreciated.

**Big Brunch:** recognising that local residents don't like getting up too early on a Saturday we have taken the decision to move the Big Breakfast to a Big Brunch starting at 10.00 am and finishing at 12.00 noon. Still on offer are our great sausages, bacon, eggs, beans and toast with variations as requested. The next one is on **Saturday 12 May**

Finally, we are very grateful for some new play equipment in the cafe which has been kindly donated to us. We have a beautiful wooden child's play kitchen and hope to add very soon a picnic table and bookcase. Thank you to all who generously made this possible.

Best wishes

Linda

**News from the United Church:**

We ask you to hold in your thoughts and prayers, the following members and friends who have been, or are still, unwell: Audrey Alexander, Clifford and Heather Holt, Jane Leckie (following her operation) and her daughter Alison Ansell, Eileen Munks, Ann Pike, Vince Smith and Rose Vincent. We hope that they, and any others who may be 'under the weather', are aware of our love and concern for them.

We are making plans for a regular monthly lunch of the 'soup and a roll, plus sweet and a hot drink' to be served after the morning service, in the Pastoral Centre, and this will be open to all - both those attending worship and anyone from the public who would wish to join us for food and fellowship.

We have found that the Thursday lunchtime services, followed by a ploughman's lunch, are popular - especially for the fellowship and the chance to catch up on the latest news, and this Sunday proposal will continue this. There will be a small charge for the Sunday lunch, but watch this space (and the weekly notices) for full details, and proposed dates.

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TUESDAY at EIGHT

The illustrated talk by Richard Williams on Old Egham was very interesting and also nostalgic for those members resident in Egham for many years. Sadly we lost many of the interesting old buildings when the Arndale development took place in the 1960s.

There was good attendance, including about 10 visitors.

On 1st May we will have the opportunity of again seeing the superb photography of Mary Braddock who will be giving a talk entitled 'Land of the Midnight Sun'.

Diane Humphries

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Before the service, speak to God.  
During the service, let God speak to you.  
After the service, speak to one another.

**The purpose of United Church of Egham Gift Day**

There are many ways to give thanks to God for his many blessings. In Numbers 18:26 it is stated, 'You shall speak to the Levites, saying: When you receive from the Israelites the tithe that I have given you from them for your portion, you shall set apart an offering from it to the Lord of a tenth of the tithe. It shall be reckoned to you as your gift...'

Some denominations hold on to this policy of asking their congregation to contribute a tenth of their earnings toward to the Church and its mission.

Others such as ours prefer to ask graciously its congregation to give according to how they think God has blessed them.

Our priority it must be emphasized is on Spiritual growth not so much about bricks and mortar.

However whilst gaining the former is eternal, the latter does in fact rust and needs to be maintained from time to time to meet the needs of the people who worship there. This makes our contributions necessary for the former to be accomplished.

Banging on asking people to give more would deflect our attention from our main mission which is to make disciples of all people.

While many Churches devise their own way of asking their congregation to meet their priest, minister or pastor to make their contribution, Gift Day is a way for the minister or the priest in the Temple of old to sit in the altar to receive offerings from the people to the Lord for sacrifice. These offerings could take many forms which the priests and high priest would use for the up-keep of the temple.

To members, friends and well wishers of The United Church of Egham I appeal to you to come and do the same on the 26th of May. However little would be most appreciated.

Beale

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For food in a world where many walk in hunger  
For faith in a world where many walk in fear  
For friends in a world where many walk alone  
We give humble thanks.

**Wendover Road Methodist Church**

We ask you to continue to pray for the Open Church project on the second Saturday of the month when the Church is open from 11.00am – 1.00pm for anyone to pop in for a coffee and an opportunity to pray or just chat to a listening ear if required.

Our Sunday Afternoon Teas are also an open door for anyone who would like some company on a Sunday afternoon. The kettles are on and cakes at the ready on the second Sunday of the month from 3.00pm.

A new session of our Bible Study Group has just started and we are looking at Ephesians. All welcome to join this stimulating insight into books of the Bible on Thursdays at 8.00 pm at the Church.

I personally would like to invite you to the Easter Offering Service at Laleham Methodist Church on Thursday May 10th. The service starts at 2.30pm and will be followed by tea.

The theme this year is 'Entertaining Angels' and features situations when hospitality can result in some surprising results. All welcome. The gifts from the Easter Offering envelopes will be received at this service.

Thank you for all your support in the Easter Offering donations towards the work of World Missions.

Anne Hebenton

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A little girl was puzzled about what she heard at Sunday School about the creation story.

She asked her mother how it all came about.

The mother told her that God made Adam and Eve, they had children and so the world kept on growing.

She asked her father the same question and he told her that humans developed from monkeys.

Feeling confused, the girl asked her mother why she had given her a different story.

The mother replied, 'It's because I told you about my side of the family.'

LECTIONARY

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**6** Acts 8: 26-40  
1 John 4: 7-21  
St John 15 : 1-8

**Sixth Sunday of Easter**

**13** Acts 10: 44-48  
1 John 1: 1-6  
St John 15: 9-17

**Ascension of the Lord**

**17** Acts 1: 1-11  
Ephesians 1: 15-23  
St Luke 24: 44-53

**Seventh Sunday of Easter**

**20** Acts 1: 15-17, 21-26  
1 John 5: 9-13  
St John 17: 6-19

**Pentecost**

**27** Acts 2: 1-21  
Romans 8: 22-27  
St John 15: 26-27; 16: 4b-15

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**VIRGINIA WATER METHODIST CHURCH**

Staines and Feltham Methodist Circuit

**LAY WORKER**

£100 per week, (10 hrs a week to include Sundays)

We are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic, dynamic lay worker to enhance the spiritual and practical growth of the congregation.

The successful candidate needs to be flexible and able to contribute creatively to moving forward the vision of the church and facilitate changes to our acts of worship.

Full Job Description can be found at [www.sfmc.org.uk/jobs](http://www.sfmc.org.uk/jobs) or by contacting Rev Beale Griffin

Closing date: Tuesday 8th May 2012 at 12 noon

Interviews will be held week commencing Sunday 13th May 2012 (those being called for interview will be notified by email or phone).

Application is by CV and covering letter (1 A4 side) to:

Rev B Griffin, 7 Grange Road, Egham. TW20 9QW

Email: [Glenbeale6@aol.com](mailto:Glenbeale6@aol.com)

**CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 13- 19 MAY**

Christian Aid Week involves almost two thirds of UK households putting some of their hard-earned cash into the famous red envelope or collection box. What each person adds Christian Aid will multiply, and so will help more people to live life to the full.

Christian Aid makes a tremendous difference to the lives of millions of the world's poorest people – not by offering hand-outs but by supporting them in new opportunities to become self-sufficient.

Please help by contributing to the various Christian Aid events in our churches. By helping to collect monies in Egham, we are putting into practice our Christian commitment to love our neighbours, and making real the Christian Aid assertion that 'We believe in life before death.' Life for the many who would otherwise know only the living death of impoverishment and unnecessary death from famine and disease.

**Let's give the tools to help people in poverty out of poverty**

Thousands of Churches will stand together this Christian Aid Week to speak out for change. Some 100,000 committed volunteers will go out and put their faith into action, raising funds to help some of the world's poorest and most vulnerable people. This includes Britain's largest house-to-house collection – an extraordinary act of witness, demonstrating to our communities that we care about poverty and justice.

This year, Christian Aid Week tells the story of remarkable change taking place in a community in rural Sierra Leone. Sierra Leone is one of the hungriest countries in the world. But helped by Christian Aid partner, the Methodist Church of Sierra Leone (MCSL), some people there have found the tools to move beyond hunger and speak out for the changes they want to see.

Christian Aid currently works with 507 partner organisations in 47 countries around the world. From Sierra Leone to Tajikistan, from Kenya to Bolivia, we are helping communities to make their voices heard and look towards a brighter future.

Christian Aid believes that poverty is a scandal and that it can be ended. Look out for local events and discover how you can get involved by asking me, your Christian Aid Week representative, or by visiting [caweek.org](http://caweek.org)

Paul Murphy

**ST JUDE'S UNITED CHURCH, ENGLEFIELD GREEN**

**SUNDAY** **Holy Communion** (said) at 8.00 am  
**Parish Communion & Junior Church** at 9.30 am  
**Evensong** and sermon at 6.30 pm on 2nd Sunday

**MONDAY** **Crusaders** - a joint Church activity for 7-12s  
6.15 pm - 7.45 pm at Village Centre

**TUESDAY** **Bright Hour** at 2.30 pm as shown in calendar

**WEDNESDAY** **Holy Communion** at 10.00 am

**SATURDAY** **St Jude's Church** is open from 2.00 pm - 4.00 pm  
- just to be quiet, to chat or to make arrangements for  
- baptisms, weddings and funerals  
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**VIRGINIA WATER METHODIST CHURCH**

**SUNDAY** **Worship** at 10.00 am  
**Evening Worship** as announced  
**Coffee** is served after Morning Worship

**MONDAY** **Women's Fellowship** - as shown  
**Brownie Guides** at 6.00 pm - 7.30 pm

**TUESDAY** **Guides** at 6.15 pm - 8.15 pm

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**WENDOVER ROAD METHODIST CHURCH**

**SUNDAY** **Worship** at 11.00 am  
**Sunday Afternoon Club** - 3.00 pm - 4.30 pm on  
second Sunday of the month

**TUESDAY** **Badminton Club** - everyone is welcome  
who wishes to play badminton, have a chat  
or just come along for a cup of coffee - at 8.00 pm

**THURSDAY** **Brownies** at 6.15 pm  
**Bible Study** at 8.00 pm

**FRIDAY** **Prayer Group** at 9.30 am

**UNITED CHURCH OF EGHAM**

**SUNDAY** **Worship** at 11.00 am and 6.30 pm

**MONDAY** **Brownie Guides** at 6.30 pm

**TUESDAY** **Rainbow Club** for Toddlers and Parents/Carers  
10.00 am - 12 00 noon. For children aged 0 - 3 yrs  
Contact Janet Figgins for details.  
**Readers Unite!** 2nd Tuesday of month - 10.15 am  
**Beaver Scouts** at 6.00 pm  
**Tuesday at Eight** - open evening with varied  
programme for adults on the first Tuesday each  
month at 8.00 pm

**WEDNESDAY** **Coffee & Chat** - 10.00 am - 12 00 noon  
Ideal for parents and children

**THURSDAY** **Church open for prayer** from 10.00 am to noon  
**Coffee** served in the Vestibule 10.00 am to noon  
**Lunch time service** - 12.30 pm - followed by lunch  
**OUCH** - social time for Church members and friends -  
last Thursday of month - 2.00 - 4.00 pm  
**Guides** at 6.45 pm

**FRIDAY** **Church open for prayer** from 10.00 am to noon  
**Coffee** served in the Vestibule 10.00 am to noon  
**Cub Scouts** at 7.00 pm

**SATURDAY** **Church open for prayer** from 10.00 am to noon  
**Coffee** served in the Vestibule 10.00 am to noon

CALENDAR - MAY 2012

Tue 1 UCE 8.00 Tuesday & 8 - Land of the Midnight Sun  
Mary Braddock

Wed 2 WR 8.00 Bible Study

Sat 5 EG 4.00 Concert at St Jude's- -see page 16

**Sun 6** EG 9.30 Parish Communion - Rev Andrew Taylor  
VW 10.00 Morning Worship - Mr Jonathon Perkins  
UCE 11.00 Morning Worship - & Holy Communion -  
Rev Beale Griffin  
WR 11.00 Morning Worship - Mrs Margaret Willis  
UCE 6.30 Evening Worship - Mr Paul Murphy  
EG 6.30 Taizé Service

Tue 8 UCE 10.15 Readers Unite!

Thu 10 EG 2.30 Bright Hour -Circuit Easter Offering Service at  
Laleham Lifts available for members  
WR 8.00 Bible Study

Sat 12 WR 11.00 - 1.00 Open Church - see page 16

**Sun13** EG 9.30 Parish Communion - Rev Lorna Smith  
VW 10.00 Morning Worship - Mrs Pam Caporn  
UCE 11.00 Morning Worship - Mr Graham Pearcey  
WR 11.00 Morning Worship - & Holy Communion -  
Rev Beale Griffin  
WR 3.00 Afternoon Tea - see page 16  
UCE 6.30 Evening Worship & Holy Communion -  
Rev Beale Griffin  
EG 6.30 Evensong - Mr Roy Gouriet

Thu 17 **ASCENSION DAY**  
EG 8.00 Communion Service at St Jude's  
WR 8.00 Bible Study

Fri 18 \* \* 1.30 pm - 9.00 pm  
and Book Sale at the United Church of Egham

Sat 19 \* \* 8.30 am - 12.30 pm

Sat 19 Start of Christian Aid Week = see p 11  
EG 10.00 Coffee Morning outside St Jude's - until 12.00  
EG 4.00 Concert at St Jude's - see page 16

**Sun20** EG 9.30 Parish Communion - Rev Andrew Taylor  
Preacher - Miss Rita Berry  
VW 10.00 Morning Worship & Holy Communion -  
Rev Beale Griffin  
UCE 11.00 Morning Worship - Mr Sydney Shore  
WR 11.00 Morning Worship - Mr Paul Murphy  
UCE 12.00 Church Meeting  
UCE 6.30 Evening Worship - Rev Beale Griffin

Mon 21 \* \* 8.00 Circuit Wesley Day Celebration -see p 3

Tue 22 EG2.30 Bright Hour at Village Centre

Thu 24 WR 8.00 Bible Study

Sat 26 UCE GIFT DAY - see page 12

**Sun27 PENTECOST**

EG 9.30 Parish Communion - Rev Beale Griffin  
VW 10.00 Morning Worship - Mrs Marian Izzard  
UCE 11.00 Morning Worship - Mrs Ruth Midcalf  
WR 11.00 Morning Worship -Mr Jonathon Perkins  
UCE 6.30 Evening Worship - Mr Paul Murphy

Wed 30 UCE 8.00 Deacons Meeting

Thu 31 UCE 2.00 OUCH  
WR 8.00 Bible Study

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A Lunchtime Service is held at the United Church of Egham each Thursday at 12.30 pm, followed by a Ploughman's Lunch, and all are very welcome.

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All the activities listed here are, of course, open to everyone. Those marked with \* \* have been specially planned or all connected with all four Churches.

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Yesterday was history,  
Tomorrow is a mystery  
Today is a gift of God.  
That's why it is called the present!