

LONDON ROAD, HORSHAM -PARTRIDGE GREEN-ST ANDREW'S, ROFFEY

The monthly news for Cornerstone Methodist Church Embracing the worshipping communities at London Road Horsbam, Partridge Green and St Andrews Roffey



Cornerstone Methodist Church

www.cornerstone-mc.org.uk

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A Word from one of our Ministers

Dear Friends,

As I sit to write this column, Easter is fast receding into the background and Pentecost is looming larger on the horison! What will our celebration of Pentecost mark for us? In the face of everything that presently confronts us, I believe Pentecost is a celebration, firstly, of **HOPE.**

Think of those first disciples. In the space of 50 days they have been on a monster roller coaster ride. Just as it seemed it was all going oh so right, it went oh so wrong!

From the heady heights of Palm Sunday to the devastating darkness of Good Friday it must seemed as if they were being hurled into the abyss. Lost. Alone. Bewildered. Petrified. Consumed by guilt. The list could go on, I'm sure.

Then, suddenly, he's not dead after all! He's alive! He's back! Speaking words of peace and comfort, forgiveness and healing. Ok, he is something of a Will-o-the-Wisp appearing here and there, passing through doors, making breakfast on the beach. Nevertheless, he's back, or is he?

No, there he goes again, up into the heavens! Only this time it is a little different. Despite all his failed attempts at preparing them the first time, this time, perhaps, they have just a little more of a clue that something more is coming!

So, there they are, all gathered together in that upper room. More than just all the Disciples. Much more indeed! About 120 or so Luke tells us. Still behind locked doors though. And then it happened! Bang! Enthused with **HOPE!**

The hope of a fresh start, new beginnings. Of a radical transformation, an emphatic reconstitution of things. The emergence of a dynamic Word recreating things. The banishing of fear and apprehension and replacing it with conviction and determination. That is **HOPE** that is so much more than wishful thinking. It is a firm foundation upon which to build that which is new.

Secondly, building that which is new is going to need a new skillset. I therefore believe Pentecost is also, a celebration of **ENABLING.**

Once again, take a look at those first disciples. A motley crew. A bunch of misfits. Riff raff. People from the margins, not from the centre of things. People without a voice. I don't believe for one minute that it is any coincidence the outpouring of the Spirit is designated by the ability of those first disciples to utter forth in other tongues the wonders of God. No, the Spirit was giving them a voice and it was a voice that sounded so clearly that everyone there heard, in an intelligible way, the transforming power of Love. The Love of God.

Not only did they hear but they also responded. When God speaks, truly speaks, the unheard of happens. Whoever thought that order could be brought out of chaos? God spoke and it was so! Whoever thought that darkness could bring forth light? God spoke and it was so. Whoever thought that dust could be transformed into life? God spoke and it was so. Whoever thought that life could be brought forth from the tomb? God thundered and it was so!

Lastly, I believe Pentecost is an act of divine COMMISSIONING.

Jesus never utters the word 'Come!' except that he also says 'Go!' Right at the beginning to the Gospel narrative this is established as his pattern. Mark 3:13-14 reminds us: 'Jesus went up a mountainside and called to him those he wanted...that they might be with him and that he might send them...' Send them he did. During his earthly ministry and now again, in emphatic fashion, at Pentecost.

Riddled with doubt and fear. They were hiding behind locked doors – again! Prevaricating and uncertain – remember, in John 21 we read, after everything that had just happened, Peter '…went fishing…' Unsophisticated and uneducated – they were fisherman and tax collectors. Except in the one thing that mattered more – the Love of God! That was enough, no, that was all they needed!

So, on that momentous day when that love invaded that small space and set of an explosion of **HOPE** it **ENABLED** their voice and **SENT** them out onto the streets because what they had to share could not be contained, neither in that room, nor any other building ever erected to supposedly be the receptacle of such **HOPE**. No. It does not belong in there. It belongs in the World and **WE** are the channels through which it will flow.

So, my prayer for us this Pentecost is that we will each be so enthused with **HOPE** that we will find our **VOICE** and heed Christ's **COMMISSION** and burst out onto the streets and share this Gospel of Love that we might see the transformation not only of our lives but the lives of others, many others, as well.

Blessings,

Gavin

Seeking to follow Jesus in Community, Love and Service We are a community of people seeking to follow Jesus, experiencing and sharing God's love and grace through worship, learning, caring and serving in our communities and beyond.



Anita Burton, Sue Conroy, Helen and Ian Currington, Heather Derry, Brian and Sue Frogley, Susan and Mervyn Halliday, Jean Hayler, Pauline Homewood, Joy and Ron Johnson, Liz Kirk, Christine Lawley—her mum Margaret and sister Susan, Barbara and Geoff Lunn, Lorna Manwaring, Margaret and John Moon, Rita and Ian Murray, Garry Poole, Maureen and Paul Smith, Wendy Smith, Brian Tjasink and family [Angela Hancocks brother], Elaine and Mike Tunbridge, Con Wells, Pearl Willcox, Dave Wrighton and Tanya

We remember especially

Jeanie Wharrier and family on the passing of her mother, Avril Bennett on 10th May.

May the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, hold you in mercy and grace as you journey through the valley.





JUNDAY JERVICEJ

	1st Ju	ine	
LR	Revd Gavin Hancocks	10.30am	Communion
PG	Worship Together in Horsham	10.30am	
StAR	Deacon Sarah Pitkeathly	09.30am	Breakfast Church
StAR	Deacon Sarah Pitkeathly	10.30am	
	8th Ju	une	
LR	Deacon Sarah Pitkeathly	10.30am	
PG	Revd Sue Conroy	10.30am	Communion
StAR	lan George	10.30am	
	15th J	une	
LR	Revd Gillian Baalham	10.30am	
PG	United Service on the Green	10.30am	
StAR	Revd Gavin Hancocks	10.30am	Communion
	22nd .	lune	
LR	Deacon Sarah Pitkeathly	10.30am	
PG	Revd Gavin Hancocks	10.30am	Flower Festival
StAR	Revd Chrissie Millwood	10.30am	
	29th J	une	
LR	Revd Gavin Hancocks	10.30am	
PG	Deacon Sarah Pitkeathly	10.30am	
StAR	Christine Lawley	10.30am	

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	LR	Worship Together at			LR		Worship				S Pitkeathly		Frost		Scrivens		New Fire		Boyce		10		
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		JUNE	NE		JULY	
		21	26	13	17	26
Leatherhead						
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	14.00		Song	Service		
Cornerstone - DC		Flower			Songs of	
		Festival			Praise 3pm	
Cornestone -						
StAR						



Led by Deacon Ruth Yorke

A Methodist Deacon working with Hinde Street Methodist Church in London and an Inclusive Church Regional Ambassador

This is an opportunity to come together as a community to celebrate our differences and embrace our shared values.

Sessions exploring: Who are we? Who is Jesus? Why solidarity and Diversity?

To find out more about the day email awayday@cornerstone-mc.org.uk

> Please bring a Bible and remember to bring a packed lunch

Cornerstone Away Day Solidarity in Diversity Saturday 14th June 2025 10am-3.30pm at Trinity Methodist Church

at Trinity Methodist Church, Storrington

> A time to pause and connect with others, share experiences and learn from each other, in worship, fellowship and discussion

Please let us know you are coming either by emailing

awayday@cornerstone-mc.org.uk

OR Add your name to the sign-up sheets in the Cornerstone chapels

> OR Sign-up on the Eventbrite link



Justice, Dignity and Solidarity

The Methodist Church is committed to **Justice**, **Dignity and Solidarity**. We believe that all people are uniquely made in the image of God, and we aim to live this



Being Christian, according to the Methodist Church's strategy for Justice, Dignity and Solidarity means:

- celebrating God who made each person in God's own image
- being disciples of Jesus who treated each person with dignity
- rejoicing in the gifts of the Holy Spirit given to all people

The 2021 Methodist Conference adopted a new report which explains why this is so important and spells out why it is vital to learn from one another so that we can recognise God's presence more fully in our life together.

We are committed to becoming a church that prioritises justice and dignity for all, especially those who have previously been excluded, and which stands in active solidarity with them.

You can find a guide to the report here: jds-user-guide-0123_IXfVNpD.pdf



Valerie Cummings

As a teenager, I was at church nearly every day, be it Girls' Brigade, badminton or youth club. But that didn't make me a Christian. It is a long time ago, but I gradually came to realise that this was how I wanted to live my life – following the Jesus that I could see in the people around me. There has been no great 'revelation' but a constant stream of 'nudges'. And in hindsight, I can see that God was there even when I was too busy bringing up the children and teaching. My faith makes me want to give of my time to volunteer in a variety of ways and I like to be practical – doing rather than talking – quietly in the background. When I have doubts, and I think they are increasing as I get older, I see God at work in friends, in the history of the church and creation and that enables me to 'reset' myself.

I feel close to God when I am out and about in nature but the closest is through music. We have some great songs in Singing the Faith, which have meaningful words and music to match, many about current issues in the world of today. I find them useful in prayer time as well. If we have silent time in church, with quiet, reflective music, I find this so helpful – calm and peaceful. I have been fortunate enough to sing in a choir which often performs great choral music: the requiems and many pieces composed to sing at Christian occasions. The words and music come together, showing God's glory and majesty. I always love going to cathedrals, giving a sense of Christian history, but being able to sing Handel's Messiah in a cathedral or any place of worship is heavenly, in many senses of the word!

The Methodist Church welcomes Pope Leo XIV's election



Methodist people cherish our place in the worldwide Church, and our relationships with the Roman Catholic Church at local, national and international levels. We look forward to ever more opportunities to share with our Catholic siblings in the mission of the Church. We pray that all Church leaders listen to the voices of the poor and the oppressed, and speak out for justice, as we share God's love.

Photo (

Photo credit Riccardo De Luca/AP

A prayer on the election of Pope Leo XIV

God of all grace,

we thank you that in every generation you reveal your love for the world, and set before your people your word of life and hope.

Bless and guide your servant, Pope Leo XIV.

Give him the assurance of your love, and pour your Spirit upon him: may his ministry reflect that of your Son Jesus, and let him be a bold witness to your love and truth.

Bless our siblings in the Roman Catholic Church as they welcome their new Holy Father. May he lead their Church with wisdom and grace.

Together with Pope Leo unite all Christians as a holy people, bearing hope and peace within the human family, and always attentive to the most poor and marginalised.

In the name of our Risen Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ we pray.

Amen.

Methodist World Mission

Last year, our President, Rev Helen Cameron, was accompanied by Rev Andrew Ashdown on a visit to Methodist Churches, schools and medical work in Kenya and Uganda. The British Methodist Church sent missionaries into Kenya in 1862 and the first mission station was based at Ribe on the coast near Mombasa.

Today there are Methodist Churches present in 45 out of the 47 Kenyan Provinces, and have Bishops, Pastors and members from most of the ethnic groups. In 1967, the British Methodist Church granted the Kenyan church autonomy and at that time they had a total membership of 8000 people. God had added his blessing to the faithful and sacrificial ministry of those early leaders and the Methodist church has grown to become a strong Christian presence in East Africa where membership now has 1000 congregations, each one gaining more members as neighbours witness the transformation that results when the Love of God is shared within families and community life.

Rev Cameron was taken to contrasting environments from day 1 of her tour, starting with a visit to one of the large slum areas in Nairobi. She met mothers who had set up a feeding centre and primary school at a simple Methodist church building, bearing the welcome "a place where everybody is somebody". It was humbling to be invited into the small shacks that crowded into narrow alleys and share a mug of chai with families. She sensed the determination of mothers to give their children hope for the future. The children sang their songs of thanks for their visitors and praised God for his love for them.

On leaving to visit the Nairobi campus of the Methodist University, the visitors felt disturbed by the contrast in this modern city, where some families endure such poverty and close neighbours enjoy a more privileged lifestyle.

Rev Cameron was impressed by the size and scope of the university where 4000 students are offered a wide range of services and levels of achievements, all based on Christian principles and benefitting from a close relationship with Wesley House, Cambridge.

The visitors then endured a 14-hour scenic drive to Malindi, on the coast and an enthusiastic welcome from members of the Tama River Circuit. It is rare for white people to visit this region and the graves of the first missionaries are still honoured.

This occasion was celebrated by joyful singing and dancing, as well as notes of thanks from leaders of the circuit and generous amounts of food. The Tana River province had suffered devastating floods the previous year, when homes, livelihoods, animals and some people were swept away. The local chief was among many who thanked the visitors for the generosity of the MWM fund and other AID agencies for 'so many items in such large quantities'. A large camp for displaced people was settled in this circuit. Despite this tragedy, church membership is growing. The visitors saw firsthand how fragile life can be and the urgency of partnering with our overseas churches through prayer and sharing resources. After a visit to Mombasa Cathedral, they revisited their journey westward from Nairobi via the spectacular valley roads. Rev Cameron was welcomed to preach at one of the Sunday services where Methodists serve in one of the many disadvantaged rural towns. The colourful welcome and vibrant singing led by a youthful congregation drew many curious observers. Rev Cameron writes, 'it is difficult to overstate how highly our historic partnership and friendship with global partners are valued." They relaxed for a few hours in the contrasting environment of Lake Nakuru National Park which is home to some of Kenya's unique wildlife.

Eventually they arrived at Kisumu, spreading along the shares of Lake Victoria where at least 20% of the population are living. There are dozens of churches and charities working to improve the poor conditions in which many survive. The Synod comprises 12 circuits, 70 churches and more than 30,000 members. They maintain a few clinics which have highly trained and dedicated staff but are hampered by shortages of beds, medication, poor facilities for maternity and childcare and shortages of clean water and reliable electricity supplies.

In this overcrowded district, young people are frustrated and depressed by the lack of employment opportunities. Some even yield to the bribes of militant groups who make false promises. As the visitors approached the Methodist Sunday School, they were met by 580 students forming a guard of honour, singing their welcome along the roadside. Church leaders plan to consult with school leaders who are eager to find employment and use their academic and practical skills to benefit their nation. Rev Isiah Deye is presiding Bishop for Kenya and Uganda and Bishop David Ntoghonya met Rev Cameron when they crossed the border into his Synod, which is relatively young. Bishop David was one of the young men sent for Theological training at Nairobi University about 30 years ago. There are still only 7 ordained Methodist Ministers working in his widespread circuits.

Our MWM members Grace and Daniel spent 1 year working with Bishop David and his team in the Synod office to address all of the challenges they face. A vital aspect was to translate Methodist Standing Orders and Way of Life books into the local language, to allow united understanding among church leaders, who had not been fully aware of their connection within the Global Methodist Family. They now have a firm foundation to enable growth and further development. Grace had a significant role supporting Women's ministries and also translating theological books into Luganda to allow students to study and train in Uganda. Rev Cameron was driven long distances on rough roads to meet the women's group who had commenced building churches and schools. One primary school already has 600 children and a charity called Compassion is partnering with the church in this location. She completed her tour with memories of their joyful faith and generosity.

Jenny Jackson

CALENDAR

Partridge Green

June

- 10 Open Door Club 2.30pm 4.00pm
- **12** Village Café 2.00pm 5.00pm
- 14 Cornerstone Away Day Storrington 10.00am 3.00pm
- 21 Open Garden Weekend see article
- 22 Open Garden Weekend see article
- 24 Open Door Club 2.30pm 4.00pm

London Road

June

- 1 Sunday Lunch 12.30pm
- 3 Tuesday Prayers 9.30am
- 4 Toddler Group 10.00am
- 4 Wednesday Club 7.30pm
- 6 Friday Café 2.30pm 4.30pm
- 10 Tuesday Prayers 9.30am
- 10 Crafternoon 2.00pm
- 11 Toddler Group 10.00am
- 13 Friday Café 2.30pm 4.30pm
- 14 Cornerstone Away Day Storrington 10.00am 3.00pm
- 17 Tuesday Prayers 9.30am
- **18 Toddler Group** 10.00am
- 18 Wednesday Club 7.30pm
- 19 Tea and Chat 2.30pm
- 20 Friday Café 2.30pm 4.30pm
- 21 Saturday Prayer Partners 9.30am
- 24 Tuesday Prayers 09.30am
- 24 Crafternoon 2.00pm
- 27 Friday Café 2.30pm 4.30pm
- 28 Saturday Prayer Partners 9.30am

St Andrews

- **3 Prayers at Church** 9.00am *staff prayers—all are welcome*
- **3 Horsham Matters Connecting Café** 11.30am—1.30pm
- 4 The Café at St Andrews 10.00am 12.00pm
- 6 Easy Movers coffee/chat exercise 10.30am to 12.00 noon
- 7 Saturday Prayer Partners 9.30am
- **10 Prayers at Church** 9.00am *staff prayers—all are welcome*
- 10 Horsham Matters Connecting Café 11.30am—1.30pm
- 11 The Café at St Andrews 10.00am 12.00pm
- **13 Easy Movers** coffee/chat exercise 10.30am to 12.00 noon
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- 25 The Café at St Andrews 10.00am 12.00pm
- 27 Easy Movers coffee/chat exercise 10.30am to 12.00 noon





What is Pride Month 2025?

Pride Month is a month-long celebration that recognizes the LGBTQ+ community and their contributions to society. It is a time to acknowledge the challenges faced by this community and to stand in solidarity with their fight for equality, acceptance, and human rights. Pride Month is a joyful and colourful display of love, unity, and resilience, with events and activities that promote inclusivity, educate the public, and celebrate the diversity of sexual orientations and gender identities.

The History of Pride Month 2025:

Pride Month has its roots in the Stonewall Uprising, which occurred in New York City in June 1969. The uprising was a turning point in the LGBTQ+ rights movement, sparked by a series of protests against police harassment and discrimination. The following year, the first Pride marches were organized to commemorate the anniversary of the uprising.

In the United Kingdom, the first official Pride march took place in London in 1972. Since then, Pride Month has grown in significance, with cities across the UK hosting vibrant parades, events, and educational programs throughout June. It serves as a platform for LGBTQ+ individuals and allies to celebrate diversity, raise awareness about LGBTQ+ rights, and foster a sense of community and acceptance.

Over the years, Pride Month has expanded to encompass a wide range of activities, including art exhibitions, panel discussions, film screenings, and concerts. These events provide spaces for LGBTQ+ individuals to express themselves freely, share their stories, and create visibility for their experiences.

Pride Month also serves as a reminder that the fight for LGBTQ+ rights is ongoing. It encourages individuals and communities to advocate for legal protections against discrimination, work towards inclusive policies and legislation, and challenge societal prejudices that continue to marginalize LGBTO+ individuals.

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Pride Month 2025 is an opportunity to come together and celebrate the vibrant diversity of the LGBTQ+ community. By participating in Pride Month events, supporting LGBTQ+ organizations, and advocating for equality, we can contribute to a more inclusive and accepting society. Let us embrace the spirit of Pride Month, stand alongside the LGBTQ+ community, and work towards a world where love, acceptance, and equal rights are celebrated by all.

What can we do?

We can educate ourselves, taking time to read books, watch films and engage in conversations that foster understanding and empathy. Share our knowledge with others.

We can use our voices to advocate for LGBTQ+ rights and equality in our community and beyond. Challenge discriminatory attitudes and behaviours and support legislative changes that protect the rights and well-being of LGBTQ+ individuals.

For more information on how we can actively get involved, visit www.awarenessdays.com/awareness-days-calendar/pride-month-2025/





This is a club where people can meet and make friends while enjoying a cup of tea and cake. Some Optional activities/table games will be available. There will be the occasional speaker or entertainment. We meet alternate Tuesday's and there is a £2 charge. For more information contact Margaret 01403 541736



The Village Café meets takes place on the 2nd Thursday afternoon each month from 2.00pm until 5.00pm.

This is an ecumenical project, working with St Michael's Church (here in Partridge Green)

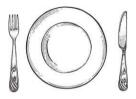
All friends from Cornerstone Methodist Church are very welcome.

Refreshments are free, but donations are appreciated, which are used to support village organisations.

For further information please contact Margaret Daniell phone 01403 541736

The Sunday Lunch at London Road 1st June at 12.30pm

We welcome those of our Cornerstone family who live alone to join us for lunch on the above dates in the Wesley Hall at 12-30 pm. The cost is £6. To book your place please contact Liz Sear (268075) or Audrey Fowler (261442).



Toddler Group

London Road on Wednesdays from 10.00am to 11.30am



A wide variety of toys, books, activities, refreshments and listening ears parenting can be tricky! No need to book - we look forward to meeting you.

Tea and Chat

Wednesday 26th June at 2.30pm

Tea & Chat meets in Wesley Hall. After a warm welcome it provides the opportunity to meet in a friendly relaxed atmosphere and to chat and enjoy tea, scones and cakes. All are welcome.

Sue Checkland and Liz Sear **All welcome**.





Messy Church at St Andrews Sunday 15th June 3.00-5.00pm



CRAFTERNOON

We meet at London Road on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month from 2.00pm- 4.00pm

Breakfast Church

IST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

Enjoy croissants and bacon rolls while you discuss the theme of the service before it starts! Ist June - Unity in Diversity 6th July - Wow and Wonder

> 9.30-10.20am in the hall at Cornerstone St Andrews

Cornerstone Methodist Church is a Registered Charity: 1134052



Partridge Green Open Gardens Weekend

June 21st-22nd

Do you enjoy arranging flowers? Or chatting to people over a strawberry tea?

Volunteers are needed to decorate the Partridge Green Chapel and serve teas over the weekend of June 21st to 22nd. For the first time, the Chapel is taking part in the Village Open Gardens Weekend. This is a fantastic opportunity to show off our beautiful Chapel and remind folk that we are there, for worship, fellowship and much more.

The PG folk are fully behind this venture but can't do all the work for this by themselves, not least because Margaret and Tony are opening their own garden for the weekend! Specifically, we need people to commit to decorating a windowsill, the communion table or the entrance porch with flowers. Maybe house groups or groups of friends could work together on one of these areas. A budget will be provided, but we would welcome donations towards the cost of the flowers.

We also need people to welcome visitors and to serve refreshments.

The Chapel will be open on Saturday 21st between 10.30-3.30pm and on the Sunday afternoon.

If you can help in any way, please contact Deacon Sarah.

JOIN US AT CORNERSTONE METHODIST CHURCH, PARTRIDGE GREEN FOR OUR

Flower Festival

SATURDAY 21-6-2025 from 10.30 - 3.30pm for Strawberry Tea SUNDAY 22-6-2025 from 2-4pm

> THIS IS PART OF PARTRIDGE GREEN'S OPEN GARDEN WEEKEND

CORNERSTONE METHODIST CHURCH IS A REGISTERED CHARITY: 1134052





4th June "An Actor, Auctioneer and Vicar"



Rupert Toovey

18th June Annual General Meeting

Everyone welcome Non members pay £3

We meet in the Lounge at London Road Chapel At 7.30pm







This is an environmental issue ! not one of poverty

The food is there for EVERYONE to use so that it is not wasted

The Community Fridge at London Road

opens every Tuesday Morning from 10.00am to 11.00am during which time refreshments are served

and

every Thursday Afternoon from 1.00pm to 2.00pm where refreshments are served from 12.15pm

The Community Fridge at St Andrews

opens on the first Saturday of the month from 10.00am - 11.00am

As well as the Community Fridge at St Andrews, at the same time, there is also a REFILL STATION

Please come along and see what we have at the REFILL STATION — laundry liquid, washing up liquid, etc as well as loofahs, soap, Ecoballs for the washing machine....BUT we would also appreciate donations of **CLEAN** bottles in which people to take home their purchases (if they forget to bring their own bottles!). They need to be bottles which will stand on a scale to be filled, and the lids come off easily. Please wash them out thoroughly and give them to Sarah when you see her...

Thank you!

Easy Movers Fridays 10.30-12 noon Posture, mobility, Refreshments and flexibility and chat 10.30 balance Exercises 11.15-12 Hyper person With qualified instructor Chair based or standing St Andrews Church, Crawley Road Roffey, RH12 4D

Cornerstone Methodist Church is a Registered Charity: 1134052 Roffey, RH12 4D) For information call or text Sarah or 07869802024



Join us at The Café at St Andrew's Every Wednesday 10am to 12pm

Spoil yourself with homemade cakes and freshly made tea and coffee

All are welcome

Come and be part of the community

We are members of the Chatty Café scheme



Friday Cafe

at Cornerstone London Road



Your space for a Friday treat Hot drinks £1, weekly menu of

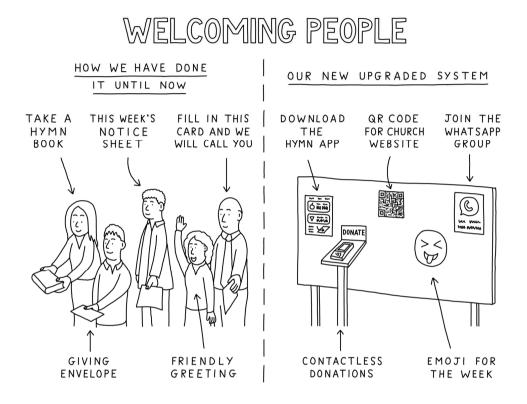
cakes and snacks

Fridays 2.30-4.30pm

All Welcome

Cornerstone Methodist Church is a Registered Charity: 1134052

... AND FINALLY



DEADLINE FOR JULY/AUGUST EDITION

June 8th

Sorry that it is so early - it's the holiday season

Please do not leave your submission until the deadline date if possible **Duflook** has limited space and you may be disappointed