



Community News

Winter 2018

In my privileged role as Church Community worker I have been asked to help produce a newsletter several times a year to share news about what is going on across the church community, and some of the stories, events, and people I meet. Dorking URC is a hugely busy church and there is so much that could be said – so where to start? On reflection, it seemed like a sensible answer to that question would be to try and capture a glimpse of what makes up the community at Dorking URC, and what better way of doing that than by taking a stroll around the premises to see some of what takes place week by week. What better way to do that, than by a prayerful walk considering the many activities and groups, the past that has led us this far, and our hopes for the future. So, I would like to invite you on the following Prayer Walk. Take it virtually from the comfort of wherever you are reading this or arrange to visit the spaces – just contact me to confirm a suitable time.

For the many people I meet, and who support me in my work, and walk beside me in the Adventure in Faith we are on. Thank you and Bless you.

Chris Currie, Nov 2018



Jesus, by Tahlia, age 5

What would your picture of Jesus look like? Is he central in all you think and do?

Prayer Walk

This walk around our buildings is intended to be a time of prayerful reflection on all that goes on in and around our premises. You can make it a 'virtual' walk from the comfort of your home or arrange to do it physically a suitable time. Either way, feel free to take as much or as little time as you like in each area. Covering every room in one session could take some time, so feel free to concentrate on those you feel drawn to and maybe come back to others another time.

Hopefully this leaflet will be a helpful guide to set you on your way, but let the Spirit lead your thoughts as you progress. Should you be walking round, the 'Do' sections are also available on a separate sheet for children.

Access to some areas is difficult, so make sure you are not alone and please take care, keep children with you and under your control, and take note of the particular warnings in some places.

1. The Worship Area

- **Themes:** Praise, Gathered Worship, Large Groups, Teaching, Sacraments, Celebrations, Key Events.
- **Who:** All God's People
- **Bible:** Psalm 100 1-3 *'Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God.'*
- **Background:** Times of gathered worship are key moments in the life of the church which reinforce and confirm our identity as a community of God's people through worship, prayer and hearing his word. This space is where the majority of our gathered worship takes place.
 - Recently it has been used for: *Would you Adam & Eve It? / Small Fry Harvest / Sunday worship / Thanksgiving Services.*
- **Pray for/reflect on:** The worship life of the church. Those that lead it and those that participate. For the reverence of communion and the chaotic exuberance of SmallFry celebrations. Think on all the significant, joyful and sad times that the church community has brought before God in this space over the years, and the countless prayers that have been offered to him.
- **Do:** Can you think of 5 different things we do whilst worshipping in church?

2. The Minister's Vestry (Pastor & Elders gather prior to worship)

- **Theme:** Leadership and teaching
- **Who:** Our ministers/pastors past and future
- **Bible:** 2 Chron 1:10 *'Give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may lead this people'*
- **Background:** This room is where former ministers based themselves. Every Sunday those leading worship prepare themselves here and the Elders join them in prayer.
- **Pray for/reflect on:** The ministers/pastors who have guided our church over the centuries (they are listed in the church welcome area). Pray for Pastor David and his work. Pray for Chris, our Community Worker and his work.
- **Do:** Guess how many ministers this church has had over its 356-year history. Check your answer as you leave through the welcome area.

3. The Little Chapel Foyer and Oasis Courtyard

- **Theme:** Thresholds and accessibility
- **Who:** Those who come onto our premises but find it hard to enter our community
- **Bible:** Matt 7:7 '*... he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.*'
- **Background:** A great many people (1000+) cross the threshold of our premises each week, but far fewer enter actively into the spiritual life of the church. Pray for them to sense they are on Holy ground.
- **Pray for/reflect on:** All the people who enter our buildings and grounds each week and that more will come seeking a relationship with Jesus and find it here. Oasis Courtyard has greatly improved our welcome. Pray that we may also find ways of using it, and everything else we have been blessed with to improve the 'spiritual accessibility' of our church. Pray for the extension of the welcome along the passageway (April 2019).
- **Do:** Think of someone you would like to see coming to church. What might make it easier for them?

4. The Little Chapel

- **Theme:** Intimate worship, Quiet Reflection and Prayer
- **Who:** Those we share our Christian journey most closely with.
- **Bible:** Matt 18:20 '*For where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am with them.*'
Background: This space is often used for small meetings, study, quiet reflection, intimate worship and prayer, and in recent times the Messy Church Celebration.
 - Recently it has been used for: *Thanksgiving Services, Healing Services, Elder's Meeting, Mission & Discipleship Team, and Worship Review & Planning Team. Also, U3A and Baby Sensory.*
- **Pray for/reflect on:** All the planning and preparation that sustains and progresses the daily life of the church, and the quiet prayer and reflection that can sustain and progress our spiritual life. Pray that these two may always be closely interwoven.
- **Do:** Draw or write the names of your closest friends. Thank God for them.

5. The Living Room

- **Theme:** Hospitality, welcoming environment, conversation and fellowship in small groups.
- **Who:** Those we want to get to know better.
- **Bible:** Romans 12:13 '*Practise hospitality*'
- **Background:** This space was created to provide somewhere comfortable and inviting for people within the church community to grow in fellowship and offer hospitality to those on the fringes – as well as providing a welcoming space for meetings in an informal environment.
 - Recently it has been used for: *Life Groups, Holiday at Home Planning, Broken, Secretariat, My Time Plus, NCT & Baby Ballet*
 - **Pray for/reflect on:** Those coming into contact with the church, that they may find comfort and hospitality here that reflects God's love.
- **Do:** Name 3 places you feel comfortable and relaxed. Name 3 places you don't.

6. The Upper Room (Youth Lounge)

- **Theme:** Inclusiveness
- **Who:** Those who work to support people who might otherwise be excluded in one way or another.
- **Bible:** Matt 25:35 *'I was a stranger and you invited me in'*
- **Background:** This space is regularly used to support and enhance the lives of people who might otherwise miss out in various aspects of daily life. It is used for recording Talking Newspapers. In the past it has also been a space dedicated to working with young people – generations who are increasingly absent from many church profiles.
 - Recently it has been used by: *-Quest (our young people) & Talking News*
- **Pray for/reflect on:** All those working with those who might be excluded from aspects of daily life, and all those working to make church more accessible to people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities.
- **Do:** Can you think of someone who might feel left out? How about asking God to show you what you can do to help change that?

7. The Gallery

Please do not go to the front rows of the Gallery for safety reasons.

- **Theme:** Empty seats; Our Growth Plan & Adventure in Faith
- **Who:** Those who we would like to see engaging with our church
- **Bible:** Lk 11:2 *'Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, may your will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven'*
- **Background:** At times the seats in this gallery have been full, but over recent years they have rarely been needed.
- **Pray for/reflect on:** The changing pattern of church attendance and our church's Growth Plan. If you like, ask God for a clearer understanding of how his church here may grow.
- **Do:** Sit in three different places. In each place think of someone you know who you would like to see sitting there. Pray that one day they might.

8. The Organ Loft

Please just look through the door to the Organ Loft and do not enter it for safety reasons

- **Theme:** Music and Talents
- **Who:** The worshipping community at this church
- **Bible:** Psalm 150:3-6 *'Praise him with the trumpet, praise him with the harp and lyre, praise him with the tambourine and dancing, praise him with the strings and flute, praise him with the clash of cymbals. Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.'*
- **Background:** Before an electronic organ was installed, this space was filled with a wind organ. Music plays a big part in the life of the church, as well as the activities that people come to our buildings for.
- **Pray for/ reflect on:** The long tradition of music in our church and all those who have helped provide it over the years.
- **Do:** Not many people can play the play the organ but 'everything that has breath' can praise God. Write or draw a picture of how you could praise him.

9. The Welcome Area (Entrance to Church) and Gardens

- **Theme:** The boundary between the church buildings and the 'outside world'. Restful places.
- **Who:** The local community and the wider world
- **Bible:** Matt 28:19 *'Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.'* Mark 6:31 *'.....come with me by yourself to a quiet place and get some rest.'*
- **Background:** This space forms a boundary between the church buildings and the outside world. The garden is a quiet restful area that draws people in to enjoy its peace, and from which we step out into the world beyond. It shares the 'come' and 'go' tension of the two Bible passages.
 - Recently it has been maintained by our *Growing Together* gardening club
- **Pray for/reflect on:** Those passing by who see and enjoy our garden and the peace it offers. Also, the work of the church in the local community and wider world like Christian Aid Week, Dorking Foodbank, Besom.
- **Do:** How many different colour flowers can you see in the garden?

10. The Passageway (soon to be transformed!)

- **Theme:** Different aspects of church life
- **Who:** The core church community and the wider church community
- **Bible:** Acts 17:24-27 *'The God who made the world and everything in it.....does not live in temples built by hands.....he is not far from each one of us.'*
- **Background:** Some may see this area as a boundary between the primary space for worship and that for other church activities. How do you view the buildings on each side of the passageway?
- **Pray for/reflect on:** The many different areas of our busy church's life, and that we may feel God's presence and seek his guidance in all of them.
- **Do:** Are there places you feel close to God? Where are they?

11. The Main Hall and Kitchen

- **Theme:** Fellowship and Eating Together
- **Who:** All who meet in this room; All who we share meals with; All who provide them; All who we would like to join us
- **Bible:** Rev 3:20 *'Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and him with me.'*
- **Background:** Many large gatherings events and groups meet here. The Hall is the hub of the community life of the church and it is where many people's first experience of that community takes place. Shared meals featured a lot in Jesus' ministry and it is a significant part of our church's life too. Meals are regularly shared at Breakfast Club, Open Doors, Messy Church, My Time and SmallFry, and they are often a key aspect of social events.
 - Recently it has been used for: *Messy Church, My Time for Young Carers, Baby Sensory, Guides, Scouts, Small fry, Children's Dance, Open Doors, Conquest Art & Creative Cuppa, Young Church, Phoenix Art, Extend, Body Torque, Model Railway & Orchard Morris.*
- **Pray for/reflect on:** The importance of fellowship and social activities in nurturing and sustaining the church community, and that those experiencing them will develop a sense of belonging leading to a growing relationship with Jesus and the church. Maybe you would like to thank God for our modern and efficient kitchen and all those who give time and skill in providing and preparing the food we share
- **Do:** Write a short grace that we could use when eating together at church.

12. The Toilets, and Boiler Room

- **Theme:** Essential services
- **Who:** Those who help maintain the running of the church. Peter Nimmo our Caretaker.
- **Bible:** John 13: 5 '*After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped round him.*'
- **Background:** A great deal of work goes into maintaining and servicing the fabric of the church. Over recent years we have installed a modern kitchen, new toilets and a new heating system for the benefit of all we do.
- **Pray for/reflect on:** You could thank God for the efficient new facilities we have, and all those who work to clean and maintain the church, like the cleaners, caretaker, gardeners, housekeepers and all the overseeing groups.
- **Do:** What could you do to help keep the church tidy and in good repair?

13. The Mission Office (Chris & Pastor David work from here)

Please be very careful on the stairs to this area as the pitch is steep and the stair treads small

- **Theme:** the mission of the church
- **Who:** All those who contribute to the work of the church
- **Bible:** Rom 12: 5-6 '*so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us.*'
- **Background:** Dozens of people are involved in the mission of the church. From this office a lot of the work is coordinated and planned with help from volunteers like Judith Snelling
- **Pray for/reflect on:** All those who work to plan and implement the work of the church, those in obvious roles, and many more giving selflessly of their time and talents.
- **Do:** How many different roles do you think there are running the church? You can find some of them listed in the Church Directory.

14. The Print Room and Archives

- **Theme:** The written word; Our Heritage
- **Who:** Those who produce our publicity and information; Those who have built the inheritance we enjoy.
- **Bible:** Psalm 22: 30-31 '*..future generations will be told about the Lord. They will proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn*'
- **Background:** Words and records feature strongly in this room. The weekly notices and leaflets are produced here, and records dating back centuries are stored here.
- **Pray for/reflect on:** Those who have passed words of God's love on to us. Those who struggled over centuries to tell, write, and print the Bible, and those who have laboured to build this church. Those who continue to spread the Gospel and the ongoing work of the church from this room
- **Do:** Look for your age in mm on the tape on the desk. Look for the age of the church – 350 years. Think about how long the church has been here. Roughly how many times does your age fit into the age of the church?

15. The Roy Currie Room

- **Theme:** The next generations; Words
- **Who:** All the children connected to the church and everyone who works with them.
- **Sing:** Jesus' Love is very wonderful (x3) O Wonderful Love! So high you can't get over it, so low you can't get under it, so wide you can't get round it, O Wonderful Love.
- **Bible:** Matt 19:14 *'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these.'*
- **Background:** As the crèche, this room has been associated with young children for a long time. They have learned their first words whilst coming here and it will have been amongst their earliest experiences of church. Others come here to form words in a different way playing Scrabble, and more still to learn words in French.
 - Recently it has been used for: *Scrabble Club, My Time for Young Carers, Small fry, Creche, Reigate Ballet & Le Club Francais.*
- **Pray for/reflect on:** All the church's contact with children and those who work with them; The people who shaped your first experiences of church; The children whose first experiences you may have shaped or could shape in the future.
- **Do:** Write or use scrabble pieces to make a word you would like to share with God, maybe something you would like to thank him for, say sorry for, or ask for his help with.

16. The Follett Hall

- **Theme:** Activities, Interests, Fitness, Energy
- **Who:** All those who use this space and the activities and events held here
- **Bible:** 1 Cor 9:26 *'So I run with purpose in every step'*
- **Background:** This space is used for a wide range of group meetings and events. Some are musical, some are educational, and many are lively and energetic:
 - Recently it has been used for: *Dorking Community Project, Oasis, Beavers, Cubs, Rainbows, Brownies, Baby Ballet, Show Choir, Exercise Class,*
- **Pray for/reflect on:** The huge range of activities that take place in this room, involving all age groups and many interests. You might like to thank God for the rich variety of life and the range of things we can do to expand our minds and exercise our bodies.
- **Do:** How many steps does it take you to walk from one end of the hall to the other? How many jumps to jump back again?

17. The Sharx Room

- **Theme:** Exclusively used by Dorking Community Project.
- **Who:** a group of around 20 precious people
- **Background:** This space was once used for one of our Junior Church groups.
- **Pray for/reflect on:** *The church's hopes to grow and the people we would like to see joining us on our ongoing journey as a community of Christians.*
- **Do:** Write or draw what you would like to see happening in this room

For further information contact **Dorking URC, 53 West Street Dorking, Surrey, RH4 1BS**

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