

BUXTED METHODIST CHURCH

Remembrance Sunday – 9th November

Armistice Day – Thursday 11th November

The regular Sunday Morning Services, held at Buxted, will be led as shown below:

November Services 2025

2 nd	10:30	Christine Sweet	Local Preacher	
9 th	10:30	Rev Sheila Foreman	Minister	Remembrance Service
16 th	10:30	Rev Andy Melvin	Minister	Holy Communion
23 rd	10:30	Pat Oakley	Local Preacher	
30 th	10:30	Steward		

December Services 2025

7 th	10:30	TBA		
14 th	10:30	Rev Sheila Foreman	Minister	Holy Communion
21 st	10:30	Rev Andy Melvin	Minister	Carol Service
25 th	10:30	Deacon Vicky Welsh	Minister	Christmas Day
28 th	10:30	TBA		

An evening service (6:00 PM via Zoom), normally hosted by Rev Barbara Evans-Routley, will continue to be broadcast throughout 2025.

Activity Dates for November 2025 and December 2025

3 rd	November	2:00 PM	Emmaus
8 th	November	10:30 AM	Coffee Morning
8 th	November	2:00 PM	Art Group
26 th	November	10:30 AM	POP-IN
1 st	December	2:00 PM	Emmaus
13 th	December	10:30 AM	Coffee Morning
13 th	December	2:00 PM	Art Group
26 th	December	10:30 AM	POP-IN – NOT OPEN IN DECEMBER

Art Group

The theme for November will be 'Portrait'.

The theme for December will be 'Christmas'.

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Waterways chaplaincy (**reproduced from The Connection**)

Peacefully floating down a canal sounds idyllic. But life can be harsh for the 'boaters' who live 24/7 on narrowboats. Waterways chaplains are there to help.

'The superhighways of the industrial revolution, canals, brought raw materials to the factories and mills, and took finished goods to market. Originally powered by horses, the canals fell into decline with the arrival of the railways in the 19th century. At its peak in the 1800s, the canal network covered 4,000 miles. Today, 2,000 miles remain, having been given a new lease of life as places of recreation and reflection.

In some parts, our canals are beautiful with abundant greenery and wildlife, in others, where there was once industrial pride, you may now find retail parks or decay. The contrast of these environments is matched by the contrast in those who use the canal. For many it is a place of peace and leisure, for holiday cruises, walking and fishing. For others, for those who feel dispossessed, it can be a place to hide away from judgement.

WHO USES THE CANALS?



Rosie Bryant is one of a team of around 100 waterways chaplains who walk the nation's towpaths and chat with those they find there, be it out of pleasure or pain. She says: **"You can look at those who live aboard a canal boat with its traditional paintwork and imagine how idyllic their lives must be away from the crowds and among the ducks. It can be a lovely, re-energising place of beauty."**

"But for some, things can be different".

There are vulnerable people on the canal. You will find people trying to escape aspects of their life, or who can't afford housing after a life event such as a relationship split.

"The boats that you hire for a holiday can be very different from the sparse conditions on some **'live-aboard'** with no running water or heat. Living on a boat is a romantic idea but the upkeep can be expensive. Without the golden ticket of a permanent mooring, you are constantly on the move, staying

for just a night or two in one place. Not having a permanent address comes with all sorts of problems for work, banking and healthcare. There's a lot more paperwork and complications living on the water than you'd expect and, if you've not done your research, a rushed decision to get a boat can quickly become a shock.

"People on the water have a lot to think about, such as where do I get fresh water? Where can I empty my toilet? Where can I get coal and, particularly if the canal's frozen over and they can't move - how do I get it?"

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OFFERING HELP



On the canal towpath, there are young children with their parents fishing. There are joggers and dog walkers who Rosie chats to. They are here to enjoy the peace, away from the busy roads, which are hidden from view and can only be heard as a distant rumble. She also chats to those she finds on the towpaths who may be troubled. She says: "If someone is begging", I ask 'Have you eaten today and do you have somewhere to sleep?' Some may have been drinking but, as Christians, we don't judge. It's just a different lifestyle and even for them it is a peaceful place. I've never had any sort of trouble from any of them.



The support offered by the waterways chaplains can also be practical. When each waterways chaplain is commissioned, they are given a windlass so that they can open the lock gates for the boaters.

Richard Alford is a URC minister and has been a chaplain on the canals for many years. He is now one of the trainers for the Waterways Chaplaincy team. He says "With 21 locks along this part of the canal, that's a fair bit of hard work but it is a great chance to chat to people". "Being asked for prayer happens more often than you would imagine and so we carry little Bibles and holding crosses with us to give away. I've even done two or three wedding blessings, the last one being in Coventry Canal Basin where they'd rigged up a wedding arch and put all the seats out with flowers and bows on the towpath. Sadly, I've also performed more than half a dozen funerals for boaters".

"For those who live and work along the canal, it is more than a lifestyle, it's a community. And like all communities, they need someone to minister, someone to care, and that's us."

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Identify?

This 'fruit' was spotted on a tree in Buxted.

I tried to draw it in the October Art Group (drawing on the board in the hall).

The big question is "What is it?".

I do NOT remember seeing any 'fruit' on this tree before so perhaps it is only produced in dry weather conditions.



Funeral of Nick Tricker

It is sad to announce the death on 15th November of Nick Tricker (Ann's husband). He had been in a care home (Heathfield) for the last two years suffering from Dementia.

The funeral will be held at **St Margaret Church on 5th November at 1:30 PM**. A reception has been arranged at the Buxted Cricket Club in Buxted Park.