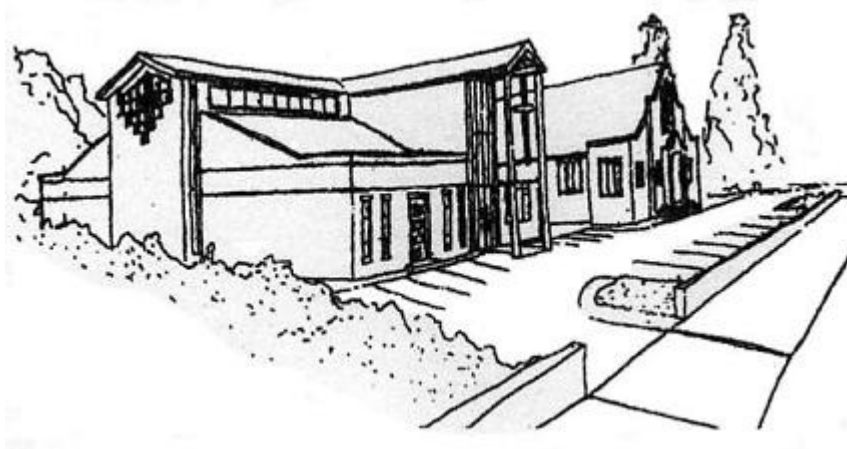


Shirley Methodist Church



July & August 2010

One of 'Churches Together in Shirley'

Eldon Ave, Shirley, Croydon, CR0 8SD
www.shirleymeth.org *Suggested price 20p*

WORSHIP & DIARY FOR JULY

SUN	4	10.30 UNITED SERVICE REVD JANE CASSIDY AT ST JOHNS 6.00 CIRCUIT SERVICE OF FAREWELL & RECOGNITION AT DOWNSVIEW OF LOCAL PREACHERS
MON	5	CIRCUIT PREACHERS' MEETING - SOUTH NORWOOD AT 8PM
FRI	9	BREAKOUT METHODIST YOUTH WEEKEND UNTIL (11 JULY) AT CLIFF COLLEGE
SAT	10	SERVICE OF CELEBRATION ON RETIREMENT OF REVD HARVEY RICHARDSON - WESLEY'S CHAPEL AT 2PM FAMILY VON RAPPS CONCERT - ADDINGTON METHODIST AT 7.30PM
SUN	11	10.30 ALL-AGE WORSHIP REVD HARVEY RICHARDSON HOLY COMMUNION 4.00 FAREWELL TEA PARTY FOR HARVEY AND CAROL
THU	15	HOLY COMMUNION AND BIBLE STUDY AT 9AM
SAT	17	KICK LONDON FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT - SELSDON HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS CENTRE AT NOON
SUN	18	10.30 MORNING WORSHIP MRS ANN ATKINS 6.30 HOLY COMMUNION REVD NIGEL COWGILL
SUN	25	10.30 MORNING WORSHIP REVD DAVID GILLMAN 6.30 EVENING WORSHIP REVD DR EBUTE OBIABO
MON	26	SOUTH NORWOOD HOLIDAY CLUB STARTS AND RUNS ALL WEEK UNTIL FRIDAY 30 JULY

**ALL EVENTS LISTED ON PAGES 2 AND 3 WILL TAKE PLACE AT
SHIRLEY METHODIST CHURCH UNLESS STATED OTHERWISE**

There will be a service of celebration on the occasion of
the retirement of Revd Harvey Richardson
on Saturday 10th July at 2.00pm
at Wesley's Chapel, 49 City Road, London EC1Y 1AU.
You are warmly invited to attend.

WORSHIP & DIARY FOR AUGUST

SUN	1	10.30 MORNING WORSHIP MRS CARYL RAPPS 4.00 AT HALL GRANGE MR ALISTAIR MACFARLANE
SAT	7	OPEN HOUSE SOUTH NORWOOD COFFEE MORNING - 31 SOUTHERN AVENUE AT 10AM -NOON
SUN	8	10.30 MORNING WORSHIP MRS MARGARET KING 4.00 AT HALL GRANGE REVD ANNE RUSBRIDGE HOLY COMMUNION
SUN	15	10.30 HOLY COMMUNION REVD NIGEL COWGILL 4.00 AT HALL GRANGE REVD NIGEL COWGILL
SUN	22	10.30 MORNING WORSHIP MR HABIB NADER 4.00 AT HALL GRANGE REVD NIGEL COWGILL
SUN	29	10.30 MORNING WORSHIP MAJOR CLIFFORD KENT 4.00 AT HALL GRANGE REVD DR EBUTE OBIABO

FUTURE EVENTS

Friday 3rd September Circuit Welcome Service for Rev Jojo Monney - Christ Church Methodist at 8pm

Saturday 11th September District Synod - Westminster Central Hall

Monday 20th September Circuit Meeting

Friday 24th September Core Skills Training - Bromley Methodist Church at 7pm (see page 20)

Sunday 26th September Harvest Sunday

The morning service starts with Gathering Time: organ music, informal singing or recorded music.

During the services there is an activity for children in Sunday Morning Club, unless it is an All-age Worship service.

A crèche is often available in the Lounge for those parents and carers who wish to use it. The crèche facility will not be supervised during All-age Worship services or between 25 July to 29 August but parents may use the Lounge & toy boxes if they wish. In addition, there are bags with small toys and books at the back of the Worship Area for any families to use.

***This month the minister's letter comes from
Revd Dr Ebute Obiabo***



Dear friends

“...I COUNT NOT MYSELF TO HAVE APPREHENDED: BUT THIS ONE THING I DO, FORGETTING THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE BEHIND, AND REACHING FORTH UNTO THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE BEFORE, I PRESS TOWARD THE MARK FOR THE PRIZE OF THE HIGH CALLING OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS” (Philippians 3:13-14)

Recently I was having a conversation with someone who had gone to watch the London marathon. We began to talk about which was the hardest part of the race. Was it the start - setting off knowing that you had all those long gruelling miles ahead of you? Maybe so, but at least at the beginning the runners are fresh and full of enthusiasm. Perhaps it is the end that is the toughest part? The runners have carried on for mile after mile and gradually their zeal and energy has been sapped away and they must wonder if they will ever get to the finishing line. Here at least though they are almost at that line and the crowds are cheering the runners on, putting new life into them. They are carried along by the enthusiasm of the crowds over the last dreadful half-mile or so.

Well, there is a lot of truth in all that, but for me I think the toughest part of the race is the middle part. The crowds might be cheering but there is not the impetus of the finishing line. It is simply a matter of steadily keeping on – the humdrum miles – nothing spectacular or exciting, just sheer plod and stickability are the thing in the middle miles.

Isn't it something like that in trying to follow Jesus? When we first make the decision to follow him initial enthusiasm will carry us forward and we have cheers of encouragement from others. Also I have met over the years lots and lots of folk who are nearing the end of the race, and they have about them a sense of

contentment, a joy of purpose achieved – they have kept the faith, nearly finished the course and the crown is in sight as promised.

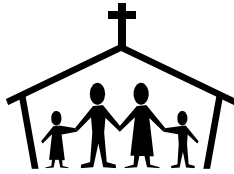
What about those many people in the middle years of faith? Following Jesus isn't a hundred-yard sprint, just a constant plod with the odd burst of speed; it's something that belongs to all day and every day. The Christian life has no place for part-timers. Most of those runners in the marathon who crossed the finish line looked hot, tired and in agony. Have we ever looked like that in our travels in the steps of our Master, Saviour and Redeemer the Lord Jesus Christ?

Dear Lord, as Harvey *sits to stand for you, Rachel races in her little red car from 7 churches to 17 churches, Nigel steps in as our new Superintendent, Jane and Ebute, though already in the Circuit, make a new beginning, and we expect the arrival of Jojo and family, help us and the Circuit Leadership Team and all worshippers in our Circuit to follow You. Lord Jesus, especially when we feel we are travelling alone and the way is tedious and lonesome, long and hard, help us not to feel that we have already obtained all that we need in our Christian life as we journey with You, or have already been made perfect, but that we may continue to press on towards the goal and the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

Yours Ever

Ebute.

* This phrase refers to a minister seeking permission for retirement. Harvey will 'sit down' after Conference but he will be serving God in other ways therefore in Methodist language he 'sits to stand' or 'steps down from one to another'.



FAMILY NEWS

Elizabeth Smart writes:

We send Clare Lipscombe and Simon Suter our love and congratulations on their wedding day on the 18th July and wish them every happiness. We hope all the family will have a wonderful celebration.



We also send Sylvia and Dennis Blount our love and congratulations on the occasion of their Golden Wedding on 30th July and hope they have a very special family celebration.

Our congratulations go to Georgina Edeke who has recently graduated from Reading University with a First Class degree in Pharmacy. Well done!

We remember members of our church family who are in our prayers at this time: Elizabeth and Andrew Black, John Band, John Burch, Joy and Tony Cane, Tina Ewane, Barbara Goulding, Eileen Goodwin, Enid Hargreaves, Enis Hanks, Vicky Lynch-Shyllon, Julia Speller, Peter and June Main, Eulah Marshall, Jean and Martin Merrett, Vera Nunn and Margaret Wilmshurst.

We also remember those who are unable to come to worship – Peggy Bridger, Essie Green, Shanti Ratnayake and Dorothy Winter together with Paul Bennett, Anita Graham and Christopher Land.

We think of all our friends at Hall Grange and the staff who care for everyone there. We welcome Mrs Kath Brickwood who has come to stay at Hall Grange. She is a member of South Norwood Methodist Church.

We send our loving sympathy to Rev. Jane Cassidy and her family following the death of her father this week and also to Juliet and Brendan Smith and their family following Brendan's mother's death this week. Our thoughts and prayers are with them at this time.

Harvey Richardson

In July we say farewell to our minister, the Revd Canon Harvey Richardson. Below are some tributes to Harvey from members of the Croydon Methodist Circuit and the Shirley Methodist Church community. They reflect how much his ministry has meant to us.

Reflection on Harvey's Ministry in Croydon

"Welcome to the greatest show on earth" was the note that was dropped through my letter box on arriving to the Croydon Circuit; Harvey had come to welcome me to the circuit but I was not at home. I still have the note.

Harvey has been a great colleague and also a pastorally sensitive superintendent Minister. There are many situations where I have called on him for advice and support, and even when he has been overworked with other things that have demanded his time, he has always had time for a chat or a coffee to talk through any problems.

Over the five years that he has led the circuit it has become a vibrant, fun place to be. Harvey has not only shared his skills and gifts with all the circuit but also has shared his very being with us all. The staff team as a whole has gained so much from him; from the way he handles sensitive issues to his love of music and his powerful preaching. Personally I am indebted to him for his support of the work at Parchmore and his inclusive love of people from all backgrounds. I, with all the staff team, thank God for his ministry in the Croydon Circuit.

Harvey, you leave **'the greatest show on earth'** to start another stage of your ministry; like all good shows I hope that you will have fond memories and that you will to come back to share with us sometime.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

Nigel and the team

The five years since Harvey came to Croydon have been a time of change and development in the Circuit, sometimes planned change and sometimes a response to changing circumstances. Harvey brought to the Circuit a vision of co-operative working, and this has inspired initiatives such as Circuit-wide membership and training courses and more flexible patterns of working amongst the Staff.

The Circuit Review process, which he pioneered, has encouraged reflection on longer term Circuit strategy and assessment of priorities, as well as much greater Circuit awareness.

The Circuit has also needed to respond to changes, especially regarding staffing. It's hard to see the Methodist Stationing process as anything other than "a mystery inside an enigma", but Harvey's experience as a District Chair has been invaluable in helping Circuit Stewards negotiate its complicated paths. He has been a mine of useful information, and above all very generous with his time, always ready to listen to requests for advice.

The greatest gift, however, which Harvey has brought to the Circuit, has been his genuine concern for people, and the pastoral care he has offered, not least to Circuit Stewards and Staff. In this, as in everything else, Carol has supported him, and any thankyou to Harvey must also be a very warm thankyou to her, both for her support to him and for sharing him so generously with the Croydon Circuit.

Veronica Hickox, Senior Circuit Steward

Harvey in the Pulpit

We shall remember Harvey as the only regular preacher at Shirley who has had the courage to inform us how long his sermons would last, and the rashness to invite us to tell him when he had exceeded the limit!

We shall also remember him for the manner of his leading worship – for the dignity, reverence and grace that he brought to his office, and his ability to bring us to feel at ease and uplifted in the presence of God, particularly in his leading of Holy Communion for us.

He has impressed us with his intellectual and cultural range and depth – even if we have not always been able to keep up with him! – and we have been amazed by his wonderful command of the detail of Scripture and his loving respect for it.

His sermons have been both challenging and comforting, according to the situation. He has alerted us to the need to avoid complacency in this period of crisis in the Christian Church, and to adapt our thinking and ways to the demands of this 'time of change'. thinking and ways to the demands of this 'time of change'. abiding love of Christ for us. But he has also had words of comfort for us in our

struggles with the problems of belief and daily living, as he has advised and reassured us of the abiding love of Christ for us.

We have been truly blessed by Harvey's five years of leading us in our devotions, and preaching the Word of God. He has enlightened us, entertained us, challenged us, inspired us and guided us sympathetically and wisely on our journey of faith.

Alan Youngs

Harvey's Ministry at Shirley

Five years ago the Revd (and now Canon) Harvey Richardson was appointed as Superintendent of the Croydon Methodist Circuit with pastoral oversight of our church at Shirley. We give thanks to God for that appointment. Harvey himself, and his ministry, have been for us profound means of grace. And we say a heartfelt "Thank you" to him for his commitment to our church and its individual members in service of that ministry.

Two parts of Harvey's ministry are selected for particular mention here.

Firstly, Harvey has sought to relate very warmly to individual members of all ages and to empathise with them in the circumstances of their lives as made known to him. He shows love and respect for everyone. This is surely evidenced by the graciousness that marks his encounter with each individual.

Secondly, in Harvey's manner of conducting worship he naturally invests it with a sense of the sacred, an awareness that all that we are doing is sacramental.

We shall remember how in Harvey's preaching he unpackaged texts to reveal for us hitherto unnoticed pathways of meaning - but never dogmatically. Graciously, his way has been to preface his exposition with words such as "May I suggest to you...?"

Joy and liberation in Christ have been dominant notes in Harvey's preaching of the Gospel and by this we have been lifted. Could we not sometimes hear the sound of shackles falling to the floor?

Despite his many commitments outside of our church, Harvey has given of himself to us without stint. We are deeply grateful.

Peter Main

We have been so blessed to have Harvey for our minister. He has been a real Christian example to us all, in so many ways.

He always gives each one of us his time, time to listen, time to help, time to advise and guide us, never in too much of a hurry.

Harvey's prayers and sermons bring God and Jesus and Heaven so much nearer. Even in our troubles, Heaven never seems very far away. In some wonderful and extraordinary way, Harvey makes me feel aware of this other world, this other dimension.

Thank you, dear God, for Harvey and Carol, who are such dear friends.

Margaret Robins

Harvey's ministry at Shirley has been for me, and I know for many others, a very special time. His Pastoral care to all in his Parish has been so appreciated and has meant so much to those he has been alongside, at times of great sadness and also times of joy and celebration: we will not forget Harvey singing with baby Nana as we sang 'Halle Halle Halle Hallelujah' after her baptism at Pentecost .

His thoughtfulness to everyone has been seen in so many ways, for example his introduction to the Free to Enquire evenings was so valued and gave an opportunity for questions to be asked about any aspects of our faith journey. This led to many interesting discussions with each other and will be remembered by all who came.

Harvey has shown us all what it means to be truly ecumenical, in the sharing of the Covenant Service in particular with our friends from St John's but on many other occasions as well. In his role as the representative of the Free Churches in Europe, he has shown how important it is to understand each other in our different ways of worshipping God.

I have learned much from Harvey during his ministry and it has been a privilege to be alongside him as Pastoral Secretary. Everyone who worships at Shirley Methodist Church is cared for in a Pastoral Group and Harvey's words, as we have gathered around the Lord's Table, are that ALL ARE WELCOME to share in Communion. Those words of welcome have been very precious to many.

Thank you, Harvey, for your loving, caring and encouraging Ministry to us all and for Carol's gentle and loving support.

Elizabeth Smart

Ever since your student days at Queen's College, where I first met you, you have been fully committed to the Methodist ministry and the cause of ecumenism. It has been our privilege to have you as our minister for the past five years. You have shared your many gifts with us and given of yourself unstintingly.

We have looked forward to services, knowing that you would bring thoughtfulness, sensitivity, dignity and humility to worship. You communicate the Gospel with enthusiasm and passion and our worship has been enhanced by your knowledge and love of music. You have encouraged and strengthened our links with other groups and denominations and broadened our ecumenical outlook.

I have come to see Bible study in a totally different light, thanks to your enjoyment of and fascination with the Scriptures, which you have shared with a lightness of touch and gentle humour.

You are a wonderfully caring pastor, always making time to listen, empathising with those who entrust you with their problems and in your gracious way making people feel valued and appreciated.

We will never forget the loving care we received from you and Carol during times of illness and worry, which you extended to members of our family.

We will greatly miss your ministry and presence amongst us, but we hope that retirement will be a time of happiness and fulfilment for you both. Others will benefit from your many gifts but we hope you will also have more time for yourselves and other interests.

God bless you and thank you for all you have been to us and all that you are.

Sue Gale

NEW PRAYER HANDBOOK

The new prayer handbook "God's Open Word" will be available in August. If you wish to order one, please make sure you sign your name and phone number on the list in the Welcome Area.

The cost will be £3 and Sheila Bryant would appreciate it if you could pay in advance this year. Large print copies are available for the same price.

The handbook will contain a lectionary of daily Bible readings, and prayers arranged as a daily monthly cycle. It focuses on justice and peace and expresses solidarity in suffering and for local needs and concerns.

There is a copy of last year's handbook in the prayer corner of the church for new members to look at.

Becoming Australian

Nicola Brandt (Kate and Graham Marsden's daughter) and her husband Owen recently have become Australian citizens. Here Nicola describes what happened.

Owen and I have now lived in Australia for 6 years and are very happy and settled, so we decided to apply for citizenship. Part of this process involved us taking a test, which we both passed with 100%! The final part, making our pledge, was arranged for June 7th. We went to the civic centre near our new home in Narraweena, a beach suburb near Sydney.

There were 70 people becoming Australian at the same time as us. The mayor led the proceedings. He gave a speech about our rights and responsibilities and how lucky we are to live on the Northern Beaches. He was quite young and relaxed. Next Layne Beachley, the seven times women's surfing world champion who lives locally, gave a talk welcoming us to Australia. A local councillor was there too as well as the local police chief.

Then we had to stand and say the pledge. There were two different ones and we were in the first group who said 'under God' within our pledge! Everyone spoke very quietly so I tried to be a bit louder to make up for it!!! Here is what we had to say:

*From this time forward, under God,
I pledge my loyalty to Australia and its people,
whose democratic beliefs I share,
whose rights and liberties I respect, and
whose laws I will uphold and obey.*



After we had said our pledge we were all called to the front to collect our certificate from the mayor and Layne Beachley. Our guests, also recent 'Australians', Lee and Dawn came to watch us and took our photo with the 'celebs'. Guides gave us paper flags and a little plant - a native myrtle. They were doing this as part of their Citizenship badge.

The ceremony lasted quite a while as both names and the countries of origin were called out. There were 25 countries represented but the UK was the biggest group with at least half the new Australians from there. There were also people from Brazil, France, Canada Russia, South Korea and India as well as other countries.

After all the certificates were given out a local girl sang a song called "I am, you are, we are Australian". It is a very moving folk song, and one that many would like to be our National Anthem as it celebrates the diverse heritage of Australians. My class has sung this in a special assembly so I mouthed along with the words!!! At the end we all stood to sing the national anthem and then it was over. We went out for dinner with Lee and Dawn to celebrate and there were about five other tables full of other new Aussies!!!

PS We now have dual nationalities. It will be exciting to travel to USA this month as Aussies when we meet up with Mum, Dad , Anna and her family for our big family holiday in Florida.

Nicola Brandt (nee Marsden)

*On **Sunday 5th September Anna Bateson** will be taking part, for the fifth time, in the Adidas Women's 5k Challenge, running for Debra, a charity which was close to her Gran, Edna Richardson's heart.*

***Debra** is a charity which supports people who have a condition called **Dystrophic Epidermolysis Bullosa (EB)**. It is a very rare genetic condition in which the skin and internal body linings blister at the slightest knock or rub, causing painful, open wounds. You might recall a TV programme a couple of years ago, "The Boy Whose Skin Fell Off". a frank and moving film showing the last year of Jonny Kennedy's life.*

EB affects 1 in 17,000 live births and it's estimated there are now 5,000 people with the condition in the UK. At its mildest the blistering is confined to the hands and feet, making holding things and walking extremely painful. In more severe forms all the body is affected and the wounds heal very slowly, giving rise to scarring, physical deformity and significant disability.

*If you would like to sponsor Anna, please speak to her parents, **David or Kay Bateson**. If anyone would like more information, please speak to them for contact details or go the Debra website: www.debra.org.uk*

A 'Thank You' from Christian Aid



We are pleased to announce that the Christian Aid House to House Collection undertaken by our Church this year realised £2,187. Many thanks to the donors, organisers and 'counters', whose behind the scenes work made this possible.

Another heartfelt 'thankyou' comes all the way from Kiambiu, the settlement near Nairobi that was highlighted. You may recall that the residents, working with Christian Aid, built sanitary blocks and charged people a nominal fee for using them. Now community members have put down a deposit to move from this slum area and begin a new life in more salubrious conditions.

Joseph Maina, a local man, says: "I would like to thank people in the UK for their generous support. Without it we would not have been able to achieve this dream for ourselves."

The money from the "Circle the City" sponsored London Walk is still coming in. Although only a few took part this year, a substantial amount was collected. We will publish the results in due course.

Finally, our weekly Christian Aid stall has been supplemented recently by some wonderful garden plants which have been snapped up. We are most grateful for these.

Thank you for your giving. The Christian Aid Committee.

The Best of British is presented by the **Family Von Rapp**
with some friends on **Saturday 10th July 7.30pm**
at Addington Methodist.

Come and enjoy an evening of British Music - from musicals,
folk music and music hall.

Tickets £5 from Caryl Rapps 020 8651 1326

All profits go towards a new noticeboard for the church.



Paul Davies writes:

We have been putting together the programme of **Lunchtime Concerts** for the **Autumn series**.

Thursday 2 September: A programme presented by students from Croydon Music and Arts. During the summer holidays the students will attend a summer school where they will learn and rehearse chamber music. They will then perform these pieces at this concert.

Thursday 7 October: This concert will be given by New Dawn who were precluded from performing in January because of the snow. Their programme will include songs old and new.

Thursday 4 November: Fred Scott who is the head of the Croydon Piano Centre and an accomplished pianist in his own right will play a programme of music by Bach/Busoni, Beethoven and Liszt.

Thursday 2 December: It is hoped to present another Nativity Play or Christmas programme performed by a local school. It is too early to give more details about this project since the schools only focus on Christmas activities during the autumn term.

The programme for the autumn series is at a very early stage of planning and I shall give more details in the September magazine and the Church Notices nearer to the first concert.

Sunday Morning Club News

In June we spent all our sessions hearing some great stories about Elijah. We acted them, played games on their themes and have made a 'graffiti wonder wall' on which words and pictures from the story have appeared. We have enjoyed biscuits, sweets and barbecued sausages and marshmallows (not every week...) We shall continue to offer a programme every Sunday morning throughout the summer holidays.



Come up the Garden Path!

Shirley Open Gardens Weekend

Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th September

Put it in your diary now!



**Look out for trail maps in local libraries and shops in
August and in the next magazine**

For more information please contact:

The Shirley Neighbourhood Care Office: 020 8662 9599

Janice Green 07765 958 667 email: janice_294@hotmail.com

Katie Perio-Rigsby 07790 500 153 email: periorigsby@yahoo.co.uk

**Entry to each garden will be by voluntary donation
in support of the Shirley Neighbourhood Care Scheme**



A Long Drop to Plug a Short Fall Sponsors Needed

With about £7,000 still required to complete the Mayday Hospital Chapel Restoration, Chaplaincy Volunteer, Melvyn Demmen and four friends have organized a sponsored parachute jump on 24th July 2010.

If you would like to sponsor them, please phone 0208 8401 3105 or go to this 'Just Giving' link:
<http://www.justgiving.com/Hilary-Fife>

THANK YOU

DRIVERS NEEDED

Shirley Neighbourhood Care would love to have a few extra volunteer car drivers on its rota, to take local elderly people to clinic and hospital appointments.

A minibus driver is also needed for the Shopping Bus trips to Tesco. About 6 hours of theory and practical training (paid by SNC) is given. It would be helpful if the driver could offer two sessions each month, either Tuesday or Wednesday mornings.

To find out more, 'phone Shirley Neighbourhood Care office 020 8662 9599.



on South Norwood

It's 2pm on Sunday and I've just returned home having had the privilege of leading worship at South Norwood. We're a fabulously buzzing community with a congregation ranging from tots to eighty-somethings and an increasing number of young families. I love being part of a growing church and getting to know such an interesting and diverse group of people. Not to mention, over the last few years, seeing young children grow into strong and committed Christians keen to play music and take part in our services.

This morning I preached on the Gospel passage where Jesus has his feet washed by the tears of a sinful woman weeping at his heels (Luke 7:36-50). This woman was a known sinner and a disgrace to society and Simon, whose house they were at, looked down on her, but Jesus embraced her, welcomed her and forgave her sins. I challenged the congregation to consider the sort of welcome that we, as a church, give to someone on the outside. Who are we more like – Jesus or Simon?

When I pondered that question it occurred to me that South Norwood has been like a home to me all my life, including intermittent periods during my university years. We have caring and committed door stewards to welcome people as they come in, and once inside it's impossible to go for more than a few metres without somebody saying good morning! We're also treated to coffee, biscuits and cakes after the service by a team of faithful volunteers. It's actually hard to leave by 1pm at times! I hope and pray that the 'South Norwood experience' for newcomers is something like the wonderful welcome I still have after 23 years.

South Norwood is part of CTSN (Christians Together in South Norwood) and one of the highlights of the year is the Holiday

Club, which we've hosted for the last two years welcoming around 70 children. This year it'll take place again from 26th – 30th July (please do contact me for details). We can't wait for this fantastic opportunity to extend our welcome beyond our regular church attendees – fun, games, crafts, songs and silly costumes await! It's great to be able to reach out to the local community, and with our new minister, Revd Jojo Monny, joining us later this year, who knows where God will take us next?

Charlotte Stonehouse (020 8676 4498)

Introducing Revd Jojo N. Monney

Jojo is the new minister for South Norwood and Christ Church who will be joining us in September and moving into the Barnfield manse with his family.

Greetings to you all in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

I was born in Cape Coast, a town where Christianity and Methodism started in Ghana, West Africa. I was raised by Methodist parents and attended both Methodist Primary and Secondary Schools.

I was ordained as a Methodist Minister 15 years ago, soon after I graduated from the Seminary. I served in Ghana for the first five years of my ministry and for another ten years in the Northern part of the West Coast of Africa, leading a team of missionaries.

Since arriving in the UK, I have worked in three different circuits, Blackheath and Lewisham circuit, Battersea Circuit and Orpington and Chislehurst Circuit. I also get invitations to speak at conferences and seminars within the Methodist Church UK and Churches Together.

I have been training in Guy Chester Centre for one year and have had the opportunity of meeting and interacting with some wonderful people. I have also learnt more about the British Methodism and Culture.

Stella, my wife, is a Business Studies Lecturer and a motivational speaker. She has lived in the UK for most of her life and we have two children.

It has been an experiential journey so far and I look forward to sharing a lasting and memorable ministry with you all in the Croydon Circuit.

Layworker's Learning

Since my professional background is in teaching it is little wonder that I find learning one of God's greatest gifts to humanity. I love especially to hear from older people that wisdom keeps you on your toes and is always just out of reach!

I have been studying a Masters Degree in Applied Theology with Spurgeon's College for around four years now and have the pleasure of finally completing a module! The last two years of ill-health have put studying, and most other things, off their anticipated course but finally I have achieved the first marker. The information is fascinating and I have made in depth studies on the key issues of new styles of church (aka Fresh Expressions) and why people leave Christianity. It has been incredibly helpful in trying to work through some of the reasons why young people find it hard to worship as Methodists and I hope will help to give us all fresh vision.

For a number of years the Methodist Church has been promising a series of training sessions to increase our knowledge for safeguarding children and young people. Finally, the first of four parts of this is now available and September should see Module A (as it is known) offered in various places and times across the Circuit. It has been whilst waiting for this that for a few years now this Circuit has not provided training for children and young people's work. Interestingly, I have had a message from the Bromley Circuit recently inviting any of us to join them in a six part series called '**Core Skills Training**'. This is training tailored to experienced as well as new workers with the under 18's. Sessions are being run on **Friday 24th September, 26th November and 21st January, 7-8.30pm**, with the course completed through 2011. Perhaps the seeking of understanding is in the air?

As many of you look towards a summer break why not challenge yourself to learn something new or spend some relaxing time praying for our young people's summer activities to provide safe and fruitful hours whilst the schools are closed.

With many thanks,

Lindsey Macfarlane,
Circuit Youth Development Officer, 020 8653 2424

More future events in the Circuit:

- * **Parenting Evening 'Happy Kids, Happy You' at Christ Church** run by Positive Parenting on **Wednesday 30th June, 7.30pm**. It would be helpful to know if you'd like to come.
- * **Shirley Sunday Afternoon Club 4th July, 4 – 5.30 pm** at Shirley Methodist Church. Briefing session for the twelve young people from Shirley and Christ Church going to BREAKOUT at Cliff College, 9th – 11th July.
- * **Circuit Service at Downsvew on Sunday 4th July at 6pm** (Farewell to Harvey & Rachel)
- * **Management Group Thursday 8th July**
- * **BREAKOUT** – National Methodist Youth Weekend, **9th – 11th July**, Cliff College, Derbyshire. There is a group attending from this Circuit.
- * **Kick London Football Tournament** – why not enter a team? (£15) on **Saturday 17th July, 12.00 noon** Selsdon High Sports Club
- * **Explorer Scout Quiz Night Friday 23rd July, 8-10pm**, Addington Methodist Church
- * **Café Worship Saturday 24th July, 5-6pm**, Christ Church, ask Chris Scott for more details (020 8656 2810)
- * **Downsvew Boys' & Girls' Brigade Camp 24th – 31st July**, Isle of Wight
- * **South Norwood Holiday Club 26th – 30th July**, South Norwood Methodist Church
- * **Open House Saturday 7th August, 10 am -12 noon**, South Norwood Coffee Morning at 31 Southern Avenue, SE25 4BT It would be lovely to see you.
- * **For more information** www.croydonmeth.org and www.croydonchurch.co.uk

Brownies Celebrate the Centenary in Style !



We are nearing the end of our special year. Since October we have been creating a very special Heritage Scrapbook of our memories of Brownies. Each of us has designed a page with photos of special moments. Ella's mum Donna came along lots of times to develop our 'scrapbooking skills'. We will leave it in the Welcome Area on Sundays for you to enjoy.

On June 18th our swimming team met at Trinity pool. Thirteen of us took part. We had such fun and lots of success. Three of us won our races and our relay team ended the night with a really nail-biting finish and a win! When the scores were called out we found we had come 4th - a great result! We finished just in time to get home to watch England play Algeria - hardly worth bothering!

The next big event followed the next day when Brown Owl took 9 of us to the GIANT BROWNIE SLEEPOVER at CENTRALE SHOPPING CENTRE!! We know she was not looking forward to it (*I wonder why?*) We met in the middle of Croydon at 8pm and like the other 400 Brownies had to carry our own sleeping bags etc all the way to Centrale, though Brown Owl's husband Graham (*known to the girls as Grey Owl!!*) lent a hand with the bags. There was a lot of security to make sure we were all safe and once we got inside the fun began (*and the noise!*).

There was disco near TK Maxx. Some of us changed into our pyjamas straight away. We drank lots of water and had doughnuts (*others just wanted a cup of tea!*) Then we had a circus skills workshop - just near Next. The last big activity was a Magician called Colin who made a rabbit come out of his hat. By then it was 10.45pm and some of us were feeling tired (*especially Brown Owl who had only just found a cup of tea!!*). We were amazed to find there were more activities until midnight.

Once they were over we slept very close together on the floor (*HARD floor!!*) on the top floor of Centrale. Unfortunately our spot was close to the toilet corridor and 400 Brownies kept going past us all night (*and I mean all night!!*)

Brown Owl says we were the best-behaved pack as we snuggled down quickly and did not chat too much – though one now has the nickname ‘Wiggler’. We slept even though the plumbing was noisy, the lights stayed on all night, the floor was hard and one of the Guiders snored really LOUDLY (*not me – you have to be asleep to snore!!*). We were woken by Brown Owl at 6am so we could have breakfast, sing campfire songs and get ready to walk back to meet our Mums. What fun - What a night. When is the next one? (*Never again!!!!*)

From the Brownies & Vicky our young leader (and Brown Owl)

Inner Peace

If you can start the day without caffeine,
If you can always be cheerful, ignoring aches and pains,
If you can resist complaining and boring people with your troubles,
If you can eat the same food every day and be grateful for it,
If you can understand when your loved ones are too busy to give you any time,
If you can take criticism and blame without resentment ,
If you can conquer tension without medical help,
If you can relax without liquor,
If you can sleep without the aid of drugs,

...then you are probably the family dog.



Not in stock...

The manager of the garden centre came out of his office to hear Jenkins, one of his most trusted assistants, saying to a lady customer: "No madam, we certainly haven't had any for some time, and who knows when we will get any."

When the customer had gone, the manager tackled him: "I heard that, Jenkins," he remonstrated, "and I must say that I am surprised at you. Never, never admit to a customer that we can't get them something. That's what we're here for. If it's out of stock, tell her you'll get it for her soon.

Now, what was it the lady wanted?"

"Rain," said Jenkins simply.



The Methodist app now available on app store

The Methodist Church has launched their first app for the iPhone and iPod touch. The Methodist App enables people to view daily Bible studies, prayers and news from the Church.

Toby Scott, director of communications and campaigns, said, "In today's society our lives are busier, fuller and more distracted than ever before. We hope this app will offer Christians from all backgrounds a little spiritual oasis in the midst of their busy lives. This is only the start for how we'll use these technologies, but already this is something that people will find useful and inspiring."

The Methodist App features include:

- daily audio and written Bible studies, with a different author each week
- prayer of the day
- the latest news stories from the Methodist Church in Britain
- topical podcasts from Methodist Web Radio
- the latest tweets from the Church's Twitter feeds.

The Methodist App is available now for free from the App Store or at <http://www.itunes.com/appstore>

Across

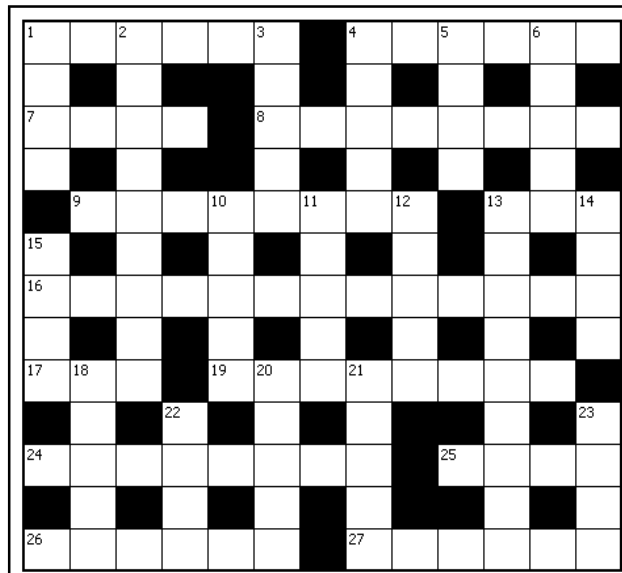
- 1 Of Moses (6)
- 4 'You have been weighed on the — and found wanting' (Dan 5:27) (6)
- 7 Where Jesus performed the first of his miraculous signs (John 2:11) (4)
- 8 Roman emperor who ordered all the Jews to leave Rome (Acts 18:2) (8)
- 9 Member of a conservative Jewish party in the Sanhedrin which believed there was no resurrection (Acts 23:8) (8)
- 13 South London Mission (1,1,1)
- 16 Sure of one's own ability (2 Cor 11:17) (4-9)
- 17 'At this the man's face fell. He went away — , because he had great wealth' (Mark 10:22) (3)
- 19 Airs used (anag.) (8)
- 24 'The Lord is my — , I shall not be in want' (Psalm 23:1) (8)
- 25 'He has sent me to — up the broken-hearted' (Is 61:1) (4)
- 26 At or towards the rear of a ship (6)
- 27 Cross-carrying evangelist and world traveller, — Blessitt (6)

- 5 Assistant (4)
- 6 On a par (John 5:18) (5)
- 10 Credo (anag.) (5)
- 11 Beaten with a rod (5)
- 12 The fourth of Job's 'comforters' (Job 32:6) (5)
- 13 Chosen as a temple attendant, as 'a capable man' (Ezra 8:18) (9)
- 14 'Do not store up treasures on earth, where — and rust destroy' (Mat 6:19) (4)
- 15 Employs (4)
- 18 Associated with penitence for sins, along with sackcloth (Mat 11:21) (5)
- 20 Association of South-East Asian Nations (1,1,1,1,1)
- 21 Sub-continent to which Baptist missionary pioneer William Carey devoted his life (5)
- 22 Recess at east end of a church (4)
- 23 One of the nine sons of Beriah (1 Chron 8:15) (4)

Down

- 1 Ridicule (Luke 18:32) (4)
- 2 Encased in strapped-on light shoes (Song of Songs 7:1) (9)
- 3 Cambridge Inter-Collegiate Christian Union (1,1,1,1,1)
- 4 'Father, give me my — of your estate' (Luke 15:12) (5)

Solution
on next page



If you need live music for an event such as a wedding reception or anniversary party, you might like to consider **The Don Steele Band**, which plays in the style championed in the UK by bands such as Kenny Ball, Acker Bilk and Chris Barber, playing music from "Basin Street" to "Puttin' on the Ritz". The band has been established for over twenty years and can be heard at various local venues. **For information contact 0208 460 5952 or donsteele@btinternet.com**

Articles for the **SEPTEMBER** issue should be submitted by **Thursday 19th August**.

The next magazine will be available on **Sunday 29th August**. Articles can be placed in the box in the Welcome area, or sent to either:

Kate Marsden - 8 Edgewood Green, Shirley (8654 0872). kate.marsden@tesco.net or
Jenny Crook - 29 Bingham Road, Addiscombe (8406 1342)
jenny.crook@blueyonder.co.uk

Shirley Neighbourhood Care Shopping Bus to Tesco Elmer's End

**JULY : Tues - 6th, 20th
 Wed - 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th.**

**AUGUST : Tues - 3rd, 17th, 31st
 Wed - 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th.**

RETURN FARE : £4.00

A volunteer escort will be on hand, to help you on and off the bus, and help carry shopping to your home.

The minibus is adapted for wheelchairs; please indicate your mobility needs when booking.

Please call Shirley Neighbourhood Care Office on 020 8662 9599 to book your seat



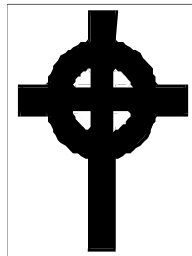
Answers
 ACROSS
 1 Mosaic
 4 Scales
 7 Cana
 8 Claudius
 9 Sadducee
 13 SLM
 16 Self-
 confident
 17 Sad
 19 Radishes
 24 Shepherd
 25 Bind
 26 Astern
 27 Arthur
 DOWN
 1 Mock
 2 Sandalled
 3 CICCU
 4 Share
 5 Aide
 6 Equal
 10 Decor
 11 Caned
 12 Eilhu
 13 Sherebiah
 14 Moth
 15 Uses
 18 Ashes
 20 ASEAN
 21 India
 22 Apse

Revd Harvey Richardson	Minister	8676 1237	office@croymeth.plus.com
Revd Eric Mckenzie	Associate Minister	8655 1927	eric@mckenzie9920.fsnet.co.uk
Fran Byard	Senior Steward	8405 3222	fran.byard@blueyonder.co.uk
Elizabeth Smart	Pastoral Care	8681 0057	bandesmart@btinternet.com
Sheila Bryant	Monday Fellowship	8239 9810	
Jean Beecher	Guild	8654 2891	
Pearl Spittle	Prayer Chain Fellowship	8654 5894	
Lindsey Macfarlane	Youth Development	8653 2424	lindsey@blue480.fsnet.co.uk
Margaret King	Choir	8777 3770	margking3770@btinternet.com
Bill Smart	Property	8681 0057	bandesmart@btinternet.com
Kate Marsden	Brownies	8654 0872	brown.owl@tesco.net
Margaret Walker	Weekly notices	8777 4888	m.c.m.walker@btinternet.com
Ruth Dodoo		8777 1987	rcappiah@blueyonder.co.uk
Rosemary Jones	Sunday Morning Club	8656 1915	jonesdlbarnfield@btinternet.com
Heather Tarling	Church Council	8656 5961	mike.tarling@blueyonder.co.uk
Christina Lyon-Williams	Neighbourhood Care	8662 9599	snc@cnca.org.uk
Bill Smart	Bookings Secretary	8681 0057	bandesmart@btinternet.com
Okon Edeke	Treasurer	8777 8385	edeo@doctors.org.uk

Shirley Methodist Church

As followers of Jesus Christ, our mission is

- ✠ *to honour God by our daily living as individuals and our corporate life as a church*
- ✠ *to offer God worship which is both lively and dignified*
- ✠ *to offer welcome and care to all, regardless of age, status, gender, ethnicity, social class, sexual orientation, ability or disability*
- ✠ *to stimulate one another to grow in our faith and develop our discipleship*
- ✠ *to work with our fellow-Christians in Shirley to serve our neighbours and share with others our experience of God's love*



www.shirleymeth.org