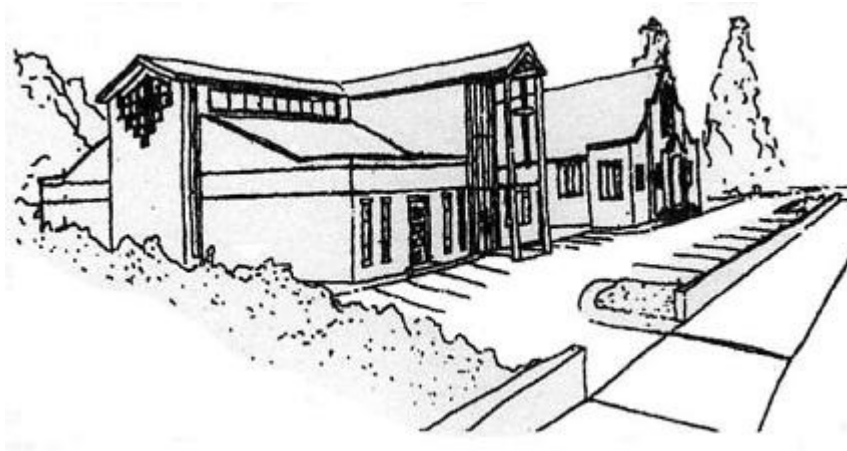


Shirley Methodist Church



MARCH 2010

One of 'Churches Together in Shirley'

Eldon Ave, Shirley, Croydon, CR0 8SD

www.shirleymeth.org

Suggested price 20p

Worship in Lent

MAR 7	10.30		MRS ANN ATKINS
	6.30	HOLY COMMUNION	REVD HARVEY RICHARDSON
MAR 14	10.30	MOTHERING SUNDAY ALL AGE & PARADE	REVD JANE CASSIDY
	6.30		REVD EBUTE OBIABO
MAR 21	10.30	HOLY COMMUNION	REVD RACHEL DEIGH
	6.30	UNITED SERVICE	REVD HARVEY RICHARDSON
MAR 28	10.30	PALM SUNDAY	REVD HARVEY RICHARDSON
	6.30	AT CHRISTCHURCH	
MAR 29	8.00	HOLY WEEK MEDITATIONS	
MAR 30	8.00	HOLY WEEK MEDITATIONS	
MAR 31	8.00	HOLY WEEK MEDITATIONS	
APR 1	8.00	MAUNDY THURSDAY HOLY COMMUNION	REVD HARVEY RICHARDSON
APR 2	10.30	GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE	REVD HARVEY RICHARDSON

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 available in the lounge for those parents and carers who wish to use it. The crèche facility will not be available for All Age Worship services but parents may use the lounge and crèche toys if they wish. There are bags with toys and books available at the back of the church for any families to use.

Monday	2 for 2.30	Monday Fellowship (alternate weeks)
Thursday	6.15	Brownies
	7.15	Prayer Fellowship on 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month
	8.00	Guild
Friday	7.30	Choir practice



*This month the Minister's letter is written by
Revd Rachel Deigh*

Dear friends,

Over the past few weeks I have been part of a '**DIY happiness**' workshop which we have been hosting at West Croydon. The advertising posed the question '**Can Money Buy Women Happiness?**' (It's a workshop for women in the local community – but the question equally applies to men as well!) The workshop is basically looking at wellbeing in a very holistic way: looking at it in terms of body, mind, spirit, people, place & our planet and how we can cope with stress in our lives.

We are only halfway through the course but I know I've benefited enormously & wish everyone I know could take part in such a workshop! Did you know, for example, that the 5 top factors that 'experts' have declared to be universal factors for causing happiness are:

- physical exercise/activity
- having good friends and/or family
- having a spiritual belief system
- volunteering – doing something for others
- having a positive mindset.

This has got me thinking about our life together in our churches & as the Croydon circuit. Are not these 5 factors also part of the recipe for a happy and healthy church community? As we journey through Lent together it is a good time to have a 'spiritual health check' & think about how these factors are (or could be) a part of our lives in order to be a happy & healthy church. As a church, we also have, of course, Jesus' own recipe for a happy & healthy life which he gives us when he teaches us the most important commandment of all.

“Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” The second is this: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.” [Mark 12:28-34]

The Christian faith can be summed up in one word: **relationships**. It is about *how well* we live in relationship with God, *how well* we live in relationship with one another & how well we live in relationship with ourselves (i.e. what kind of image we have of ourselves & whether we are happy in ourselves.) This is what Jesus seems to be saying in summarising the commandments in this way.

Over the coming weeks & months as we think about the future of the circuit & how we are to be faithful people of God – as we seek to fulfil our Covenant promise to accept God’s purpose for our lives and his call to love and serve him in all our life and work - let us focus on the quality of our relationships. But let us not be solely introspective & inward looking – we must not forget that our relationships with one another are not solely about our relationships with those who share our faith within the life of the church, but also about our relationships with those in our communities. As we think about how we share our faith, let us be a witness to God’s goodness & join in God’s mission to the WHOLE WORLD.

This is a good Methodist principle too as we belong, within the Methodist Church, to a Connexion – a very ‘Methodist’ word which speaks of our connectedness and relationships with one another which are at the heart of our circuit system of belonging together. And it reminds us that we are not just connected to each other within our church or circuit, but across the whole of the British Isles & the world-wide family of the church! We need each other!

When we begin to understand and act on these things we are not far from the Kingdom of God. May we discover this to be true for us all this Lent & in the coming Easter season.

With all good wishes,
Rachel Deigh.



For Your Diary in March



THU	4	LUNCHTIME CONCERT 1.15 BROWNIES 6.15 GUILD 8PM 'FROM ENLIGHTENMENT TO	
		REVD HARVEY RICHARDSON	
FRI	5	WOMENS WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 11AM CHRISTCHURCH 8PM OUR LADY OF ANNUNCIATION	
SAT	6	FESTIVAL OF TALENTS - ALL DAY	
SUN	7	SUNDAY AFTERNOON CLUB 4- 5.30	
MON	8	MONDAY FELLOWSHIP 2PM CHILDRENS TRUST -TADWORTH CROYDON CAMERA CLUB EXHIBITION AT FAIRFIELD HALLS -ALL WEEK	
THU	11	BROWNIES 6.15 (MUMS PAMPER NIGHT) GUILD 8PM 'THE QUAKER SCHOOL IN LEBANON'	
SAT	13	ORGAN CONCERT - CAROL WILLIAMS	
SUN	14	MOTHERING SUNDAY	
MON	15	CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERT -MAGGINI CIRCUIT MEETING ADDINGTON	
THU	18	BROWNIES 6.15 GUILD 8PM THE VIGIL -MAURICE GRAHAM	
FRI	19	MARKS GOSPEL ADDINGTON 8PM	
SAT	20	GREAT BOOK SALE - ALL DAY OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHEER FOR SIERRA LEONE EVENING AT CHRISTCHURCH 7PM JOHN RUSKIN CHORAL SOC. SPRING CONCERT ST JOHNS 7.30PM	
SUN	21	STAINERS CRUCIFIXION REHEARSAL 2.30 CHRISTCHURCH	
MON	22	MONDAY FELLOWSHIP -2PM -THE VIGIL -MAURICE GRAHAM	
THU	25	BROWNIES 6.15 GUILD 8PM AGM	
SAT	27	GUILD SUPPER & SOCIAL	
SUN	28	PALM SUNDAY SUNDAY AFTERNOON CLUB 4- 5.30 STAINERS CRUCIFIXION CHRISTCHURCH REHEARSAL FOLLOWED BY CIRCUIT SERVICE AT 6.30 CLOCKS GO FORWARD ! BRITISH SUMMER TIME	

Future Dates

Sunday 18 April Church AGM during morning service

Sunday 9 May - Saturday 15 May Christian Aid Week

Sunday 16 May (1 pm) "Circle the City" London Walk for Christian Aid, visiting City of London's ancient churches

21 – 23 May Pentecost Festival – a London weekend of mixed events, more details www.pentecostfestival.co.uk

Sunday 30 May United Noise – a Christian music celebration for young people -Fairfield Halls

Shirley Methodist Church Concerts



During March we shall be hosting three concerts - do come along. Our February concert given by the trio Parsons' Noyse was a great success. They played music both familiar and unfamiliar (but very easy on the ear) to a large and appreciative audience.

- The next lunchtime concert will take place on **Thursday, 4th March** at 1.15 pm. The concert features students from the Croydon Piano Centre.
- There will be an evening concert on **Monday 15th March** at 7.30pm when Trinity School presents a concert of Chamber Music given by groups from the school and the celebrated Maggini Quartet.

Admission to these concerts will be free. Tea, coffee and fruit juice will be available.

(NB There will be no lunchtime concert on April 1 -Maundy Thursday)

- On **Saturday 13th March** at 7.30pm the distinguished concert organist, Dr Carol Williams - currently civic organist in San Diego - will give a concert. Her programme will include music by Vivaldi , Verdi, Sousa "Fats" Waller and Carl Jenkins as well as the two block buster toccatas by Boellmann and Widor. The latter will be familiar to most of us since David Tayler plays them from time to time at the end of the morning service. To find out more about Carol look at her website: www.melcot.com or go on to YouTube. Tickets for this concert cost £10.



FAMILY NEWS

Elizabeth Smart writes:

We have just seen the beautiful photographs of Catherine (Blake) and Steve Graham's wedding in New Zealand and now we look forward to seeing and hearing about Jennie and Adrian's wedding at St Mary's, Caterham on 20th March. We send Jennie and Adrian and all the family our best wishes for their wedding day and of course we look forward to sharing the photos afterwards!



We are delighted to hear that Rachel (Jones) and John have just become the proud parents of a lovely baby boy. We send them our warmest congratulations. We hope to meet this latest member of Rosemary & David's family when they visit from their Cardiff home.

We have warmly welcomed Mrs Sybil Mullins who has transferred her membership from the Church of the Nazarene and also Mrs Ruth Dodoo who has transferred her membership from Walthamstow.

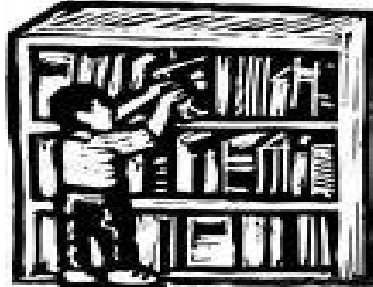
As Mothering Sunday is celebrated on March 14th we remember those in our church family who are mothering young children and face the daily joys and challenges of parenthood. We also remember those whose children have grown up and left the family home. And regardless of our age, we thank God for those women who nurtured us and loved us: mothers, grandmothers, foster mothers and carers. Mothering Sunday especially gives us a time to think of mothers who are no longer with us and to remember the times we shared as a family.

We remember members of our church family who are in our prayers at this time: Tina Ewane, Gladys Kimber, Vera Nunn, Vicky Lynch-Shyllon, Peter and June Main, Jean and Martin Merrett and Aaron Read. Also those who are unable to come to worship – Peggy Bridger, Essie Green, Alan McEwen, Shanti Ratnayake and Dorothy Winter together with Paul Bennett, Anita Graham and Christopher Land.

We also remember in our prayers our friends at Hall Grange and the staff who care for everyone there.

GBS 9

We are holding the 9th Great Book Sale on Saturday 20th March 2010 between 10 am - 4 pm.



In addition to books there will be DVDs, CDs, videos, tapes, records and bric-a-brac for sale.

Refreshments will be on sale throughout the day. Please tell your friends, family & neighbours to come along !

Obviously we shall need substantial help with the sale. Can you help with setting up on Friday 19th March and/or on Saturday 20th. Jobs include welcoming customers, taking money, catering, directing the public, counting all money collected, keeping the boxes of books tidy and clearing up afterwards. Please add your name to the list in the Church welcome area..... Choose your time slot & job. If you can't help then please remember we need customers as well as helpers !



At the end of January we were privileged to welcome Revd Martin Davies (Area coordinator of The Leprosy Mission) to our morning service.

He mentioned OASIS DAYS – quiet days held on the second Sunday of each month at Christ Church Southwark. These sessions are run between 10.45 – 3.30pm.

March 9th – Receiving healing – Revd Annette Frances
April 13th – Mildmay Mission – Fi McLaughlin

To book a place phone 01895 822863

Methodist Talents Festival 2010



Saturday 6th March

at Shirley Methodist Church

Doors open at 10.00 am.



Live performing classes - music and readings
11.00 am to 5.00 pm.

Display of creative writing, handicrafts, artwork
etc to view through the day from 10.30 am.

Refreshments on sale, including lunches

Celebration Concert, including live performances,
5.15 - 6.15 pm.

Come for the day or drop in at any time.



EVERYONE IS WELCOME!



From Paul Davies

I recently attended a concert at St Francis of Assisi Church, West Wickham, given by The Allegri Singers. The programme which was very well sung comprised music by Poulenc and Faure (The Requiem and Cantique de Jean Racine). The two soloists were Ian and Sylvia Jones who will be performing at our May lunchtime concert. The Allegri are putting on another concert on Saturday, 27 March at St Francis Church when they will be singing Samuel Wesley's "The Wilderness" and "Ascribe unto the Lord" as well as Parry's "Songs of Farewell". The year 2010 is the 200th anniversary of the birth of Samuel Sebastian Wesley.

What's on at The Guild in March?

It's hard to believe that this is the last month of our Guild meetings until we begin our new session in October. However, we hope to run a few outings about which you will be kept posted.



Thursday 4th March is the fifth and final talk given by our Minister in the "Change Your Mind!" series. This is entitled "From Enlightenment to...?" All who have attended these talks have found them full of interest; we have learnt so much of the patterns of thought through the ages from Jesus' day. Tonight brings us up to date.

"The Quaker School in Lebanon" is the subject on Thursday 11th March. Our speaker will be Gillian Turner who spent a year, as a volunteer, teaching English to Christian and Muslim children at a school near Beirut. She returns regularly and this is her story. She is also involved in writing for Quaker publications. This should be a most interesting evening. There will be a collection.

On Thursday 18th March there will be a play reading of "The Vigil". The scene is set in a court of law where, thirty years after the Crucifixion of Jesus, a gardener from the Garden of Arimathea is accused of helping the disciples steal Jesus' body. The audience is invited to be members of the jury and deliver their own verdict. This reading, during Lent, will give us cause for deep reflection on events that changed the world.

Finally our Annual General Meeting will be on Thursday 25th March. There will be a chance to hear what is in store for the next Guild session in the autumn.

Everyone is very welcome to our meetings, which guarantee warm Christian fellowship and a stimulating evening.

Jean Beecher, Guild Secretary

Thoughts for Mothering Sunday

There is an old Jewish saying: God could not be everywhere, and therefore he made mothers.

Mother Church, Mother Earth, Mother of the Gods - our human mothers - all of them have been part of the celebration of 'Mothering Sunday' - as the fourth Sunday in Lent is affectionately known.

In Roman times, great festivals were held every Spring to honour Cybele, Mother of all the Gods. Other pagan festivals in honour of Mother Earth were also celebrated. With the arrival of Christianity, the festival became one honouring Mother Church.

"I learned more about Christianity from my mother than from all the theologians of England". John Wesley.

"A mother is a person who seeing there are only four pieces of pie for five people, promptly announces she never did care for pie". -Tenneva Jordan

"The sweetest sounds to mortals given are heard in Mother, Home, and Heaven". - William Goldsmith Brown

"The moment a child is born, the mother is also born. She never existed before. The woman existed, but the mother, never. A mother is something absolutely new". - Rajneesh Ali

"I look back on my childhood and thank the stars above. For everything you gave me, but mostly for your love." - Wayne F. Winters

"A hundred men may make an encampment, but it takes a woman to make a home." - Chinese proverb

"Mother: the most beautiful word on the lips of mankind." - Kahlil Gibran



This poem was written by Claire Bradford, a member of Sunday Morning & Afternoon Clubs. It was published in 'Whispers on the Breeze'; an anthology of poems by British poets.



The Rose

*Thorns in rows upon the stem,
Stood fearlessly,
as if positioned for battle.
The stem itself did not sway
once in the wind,
the very roots anchored to the ground.
The emerald green of each intertwined leaf
Was the heart of the king's treasure.
Each delicate tip of the rose petal
Was perfectly formed,
By the most skilled craftsman of all.
How something so fierce and beautiful stood as one.
The rose, untouched even by time.*

Claire Bradford

Guide Dog News

Although I did not have a very good start to 2010 I am delighted to tell you that Jennie, my second sponsored puppy has successfully completed her training. She has been partnered with a man in Surrey.



Bebe, who is now enjoying an early retirement can be proud of her achievement of producing 12 guide dogs out of her 3 litters of 18 pups.

Betty Bird



on Addington Methodist Church

2010 sees AMC celebrating our Diamond Jubilee. What is now our Hall was the original Church opened in 1950. Such was the enthusiasm of the young membership moving into the area, the current Worship Area was built and opened nine years later in 1959. The membership has always been aware of the local community and previously ran a satellite Sunday School in New Addington with a roll of some 200. Today, albeit the membership is some 85, the Church building is used by many diverse church based and community organisations for all ages. There is a warm welcome for all.

As part of our 60th Anniversary celebrations there is to be a performance by Lance Pierson of his one man play "St. Mark's Gospel" on 19th March, in June a Church Family Reunion with BBQ and Service lead by Mark Fanshawe, one of our former Junior Church members; another former member Revd. Karen George, neé Sutton, is to lead our Jubilee Anniversary Service in October. Other visiting Preachers will be Revd. Jenny Impey, Revd. Frank Smith and Revd. Peter Perowne; see our Magazine for further details.

AMC is often called the Church with the "big white cross" or "the one with the green roof" and as such is very much part of the locality and community. With an ageing congregation sometimes it is not easy to effect outreach by way of going out but many find the warm welcome and support what is most comforting and uplifting in their life's journey.

Dean Sutton

A Legacy of Hope

“Strong arms lifted me into the manhole. I landed on a ledge, and was amazed to see people standing along the narrow tunnel. Then we walked some way before emerging into daylight. At last we were on the other side of those high imprisoning walls that surrounded the ghetto where we had suffered for so long. We were the tiny minority of fortunate ones who made it to freedom.”

You could have heard a pin drop as Janina Fischler-Martinho, the guest speaker at the Holocaust Memorial Day Ceremony at Croydon Town hall on 27th January, related her story. To a packed audience she recalled her happy childhood in Krakow, Poland, happy until war broke out and the Holocaust destroyed the lives of thousands of Jews, including her own parents.

This talk was the key item of the ceremony to mark the 65th Anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. As the town hall clock struck twelve, the Mayor of Croydon, Councillor Margaret Mead, read the Holocaust Memorial Day pledge and lit a candle in memory of those who died.

We climbed the stairs to the Council Chamber, made our way along the landing, where a group of pupils from Whitgift School played their violins, and took our seats. The programme included singing, poetry and readings by young people from the Oasis Academy Coulsdon, Addington High and Old Palace Schools. It was a moving experience with each item beautifully presented.

It was fitting to look back and remember, but as Janina said: “I am never ‘happy’ to talk about my experiences, but it is out of a sense of homage and respect to those that died that I recount them.” We learnt that after a long, hard time of disguising her identity and doing hard manual work, she was reunited with an uncle and eventually came to Scotland. A new life began: she enjoyed a career as a French teacher, became a grandmother, and moved to Croydon, where she now lives.

And so to the future. The ceremony was described as "A Legacy of Hope", and on that day similar gatherings were held throughout the country. The many schoolchildren involved and the large number of Croydon citizens who attended was encouraging. The poster advertising the event explained it was planned "to make the lessons of hope for a safer, inclusive society where the differences between us are respected as a reality today and in the future".

If we can move forward with these words in mind, the occasion really will have lived up to its title "A Legacy of Hope".

Jean Beecher



Disciple Taster Day

Jenny Impey, one of the District Chairs will be leading a Disciple Taster Session on **Saturday 27th March 2010**. The session will offer an opportunity for you to reflect on what it means to be a disciple. The session will run from 10am to 1pm and will be held at Westminster Central Hall. For more details and to register your interest please contact Daniella at: daniella@methodistlondon.org.uk or call: 020 7654 5309.

**LEADERS OF WORSHIP & PREACHERS TRUST
CELEBRATION SUNDAY 2010**

25TH APRIL

We are very pleased that ALISON ADAM, the well known Christian musician and member of the Iona community is visiting our circuit for this occasion. She will lead an afternoon workshop and take part in the evening Circuit service at Addington Methodist. Everyone is warmly invited. Book the date now and watch for further details

Alan Youngs

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT has begun but it is not too late to get involved !

For this year's Fairtrade Fortnight we're asking the nation to join us in The Big Swap. We are asking you to swap your usual stuff for Fairtrade stuff. Your usual bananas for Fairtrade bananas, your usual cotton socks for Fairtrade cotton socks, and your usual cuppa for a Fairtrade cuppa. This means that every time you go shopping, you can use your wallet to make a stand. We've just launched The Big Swap website, packed with lots of resources to download and use to help us reach our target of 1000001 swaps to Fairtrade certified products during Fairtrade Fortnight - 22 February to 7 March. Watch films and read more about The Big Swap then start using posters and action guides to help us spread the word.



Why Swap?

Swapping your usual stuff for Fairtrade stuff is a brilliantly small step to making the world a fairer place. It means that you get to show your support for developing world producers through what you buy. Two billion people - a third of humanity - survive on less than \$2 a day. Unfair trade rules keep them in poverty, but they face the global challenges of food shortages and climate change too.

Things To Swap

The Fairtrade range started small. Like one bar of chocolate small. Now there are over 4,500 products bearing the FAIRTRADE Mark. A glorious array of products that spans pineapples and footballs to duvets and rice. Find out more about food & drink, beauty products, clothing and other bits and pieces you can swap today!

CHURCHES TOGETHER CROYDON are holding an 'away day' on The Environment on Saturday 22 May at St Mary's Farleigh from 9.30 to 1.30. Please put this date in your diary now – further details will follow nearer the date.

(Not) My Favourite Things!

(with apologies to Rodgers and Hammerstein)

Facebook and Bebo and E-bay and Twitter
Texting and typing – they won't make you fitter,
Sore eyes and fingers are all that they bring,
They're not remotely my favourite things!
Viruses, Trojans, and spamming and phishing,
Data on laptops that seem to go missing,
Sitting on trains when a telephone rings,
These aren't exactly my favourite things!
When they break down, when they spam me,
When they make me mad.....
Then I remember how things used to be
And I don't feel so bad!
Letters from loved ones in handwritten packets
Walks in the park with no 'phones in our jackets,
Capitals used when a sentence begins,
Those were a few of my favourite things!
For those old days, and those old ways,
I am feeling sad,
Then I switch off my i-phone and PC,
And I don't feel so bad!

LAYWORKER'S LOGBOOK

We've just changed our car. We no longer have two different lives needing two cars, but one larger one that's all about a time with small children. We feel very blessed. Grandparents no longer have to travel separately!

We can now take six passengers and that seems a strange concept. I'm hoping however, that this will still not give the space we need for transport to BREAKOUT. This is the national Methodist youth weekend and I am currently advertising it through our groups. Last time I took four young people from Shirley and this time it is likely that there will be a joint group from Shirley and Christ Church. It would be really great to take others but we need to book quite early so please make enquiries before Easter.

Similarly, if you would like to help with the South Norwood Holiday Club this year we need to know as soon as possible. You can get in touch with Charlotte Stonehouse or myself. There is a training evening on Monday 21st June by which all the approvals will be needed and these can take a while. If you are thinking about working with anyone under 18 in our Circuit then your application for a CRB must be made to a Church Council. Contact a minister or the secretary to the Church Council for Methodist Safeguarding Form A.

So, with thoughts of travelling and summertime, you might like to know that through the next few months our young people will be offering to wash your cars to raise funds for their ventures! If you have a coffee morning or event for which this would be appropriate, please let me know and I'll gather the troops. As well as fundraising, these are good times for all ages to mix and share thoughts of what we're all up to. I hope this might encourage us all.

With thanks for your ongoing prayers,

Lindsey Macfarlane,

Circuit Youth Development Officer, 020 8653 2424

ALL SAINTS SPRING PARK

Celebrate Christian Aid



with us!
learn more
about their work
around the world.



Sunday May 16th 2010

1.00 to 3.00pm

All Saints Church Hall, Bridle Rd, Shirley

Speaker: Jude Mackenzie

Director of Advocacy and Communications at Christian Aid

Fair Trade goods on sale

Buffet Lunch

RSVP

Liz Bebington 020 8777 4840

lizbeb@googlemail.com

Croydon Camera Club



This club meets each week on our premises. It was founded in 1890 and is one of England's oldest photographic societies.

Come and see an exhibition of prize winning entries on display in the Sun Lounge at the Fairfield Halls.

It will be open (no charge) for one week commencing on Monday 8th March.

To find out more, go to www.croydoncameraclub.org.uk

Girlguiding in Shirley

Our centenary began with a National Launch Party at Crystal Palace on 5th September 2009 when over 7,000 members attended the fun-filled day. Activities included circus skills, abseiling, wall climbing, zip wire,, drumming, pioneering and much more. In the evening there was a pop concert and firework display. It is good to know that Guiding is still thrivingit looks a lot different to Guiding back in the early years , but the girls still have fun, face challenges and learn new skills. They are encouraged are encouraged to make responsible decisions, be a good friend and to play an active part in the community. We are the largest girl-only youth organisation in the world and are represented in nearly every country. In the UK alone we have over 600,000 members.

Here in Shirley Guiding is going strong. We have a total of 14 units comprised of three Rainbow Units, seven Brownie Packs and four Guide Units. We offer girls aged 5 – 18 a relevant and structured programme alongside exciting indoor and outdoor activities. For the older girls, there are fantastic opportunities for international travel – we have a group of guides and leaders going to South Africa this year. Another leader is taking part in the Tall Ships Challenge.

A number of our units are full which means we have waiting lists, but our aim is to be able to offer all girls who want to be members the opportunity to join a unit when the time is right for them. If we had more adult leaders we could open new units and strengthen teams in existing units. What would you like to get out of your life and, perhaps more importantly, what might you be prepared to put in? Have you thought of giving something back to your local area and also improve your skills, enable you to have fun with like minded people, to work alongside girls of different ages, discovering your talents and getting the opportunity to make a real difference to someone's life?

Girlguiding welcomes female adults aged between 18-65 from all nationalities who would like to explore the possibility of becoming a leader. What better way for communities to provide good and positive role models for their girls. We provide all the necessary training, mentoring and support to enable leaders to play a full part within their chosen unit.

With paid jobs becoming more keenly sought after it can definitely help, when you are completing a CV, to be able to say that you volunteer with Girlguiding. By highlighting volunteering in your CV a future employer can learn a great deal about you – they will know that you are someone who has a sense of community spirit, is reliable, a team-player, has good time-management skills and a person who will have many other valued skills to bring to the workplace.

If you are up for a new challenge and to find out what volunteering opportunities there are in Shirley please call Jane Marcroft on 01883 625995.

John Ruskin Choral Society



Spring 2010



Schubert - Song of Miriam
Cherubini - Requiem in C Minor

Tracey Connell – Mezzo-Soprano
Suzanne Brodie – Organ
Adrian Connell – Conductor



March 20 2010
St John's Church,
Shirley Church Road, Shirley
7.30pm



Programme Vouchers £7.00/£6.00
Available on the door, or contact:
Email: johnruskinchoir@yahoo.co.uk

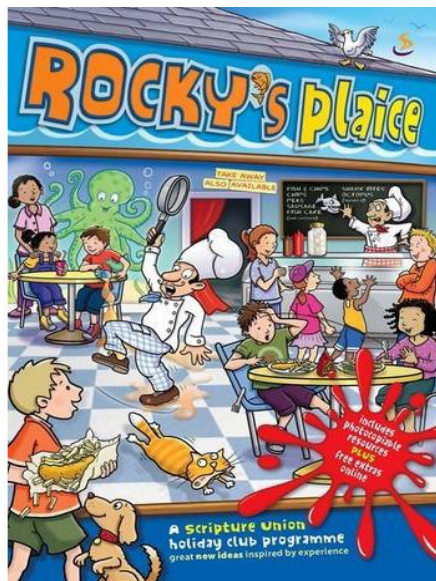




Sunday Morning Club News

In February we shall be spending our time on Sunday mornings getting ready for future events. One of the charities we shall be supporting at our Beetle Drive is TLM and on World Leprosy Day (7th February) we found out about leprosy and how it affects those with the disease in Nepal. Using the theme of plenty and scarcity, we shall be using various Bible stories to take us through Lent and help us prepare for Easter. On Sunday 28th February we shall be making preparations for the Beetle Drive during that afternoon. We are looking forward to welcoming lots of our church family to that event!

We have heard some good news about one of our alumni. David Godfrey, Margaret and Eric's son, has recently had published by Scripture Union a Holiday Club resource for 5-11 year olds, called "Rocky's Plaice". A member of our Sunday school during his formative years, David was also involved with some of the Shirley Children's Holiday Clubs that were run here 20 years ago. He trained



as a primary school teacher and as well as teaching teachers to teach maths (to music!), he is a Christian schools worker, travelling to many parts of the UK training children's leaders. David has also written and recorded seven albums of children's praise and worship songs; we like joining in with some of them in Sunday Morning Club!

Brownie News

We have welcomed 4 new Brownies this term; Harriet, Lily, Sineade and Josie. That means we have 22 girls meeting each Thursday. Tawny has been a guider for 38 years! Isn't that amazing? Brown Owl went to a Guiders Pamper Day last month..... we think she deserved it , don't you?



Our sixers helped us to complete a CHOCOLATE CHALLENGE recently. We had a blindfold tasting session, played 'chockey', hunted for hidden chocolates in the dark and iced chocolate mini-rolls to make them look like animals. And best of all, we took lots of chocolate home with us!

We are planning something very special for our Mums to celebrate Mothering Sunday - a MUMS PAMPER NIGHT. We shall tell you all about it in the next magazine. Here is a poem we liked about Mums.

My mum

She cleans me
Feeds me
Helps me
And mends me
She clothes me
Tidies me
Sweet dreams me
And tends me
She tries to homework me
Library me
Organise me
And please me
She's been known to scold me
Warn me
Anger me
And tease me
She birthdays me
Pocket moneys me
Easter eggs me
And just surprises me
Best of all
She cuddles me
Tickles me
Praises me
And simply loves me

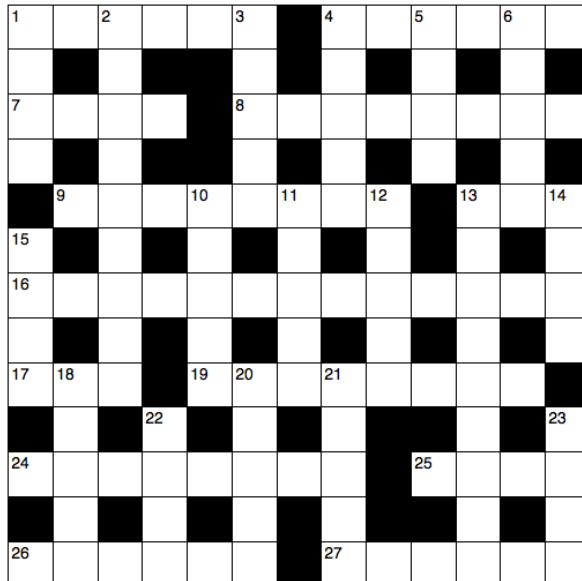
Ian Souter

Across

- 1 The earth is one (6)
- 4'On a hill far away stood an old — cross' (6)
- 7'I am the — vine and my Father is the gardener' (John 15:1) (4)
- 8The Caesar who was Roman Emperor at the time of Jesus' birth(Luke 2:1) (8)
- 9>Your — should be the same as that of Christ Jesus'(Philippians 2:5) (8)
- 13Jesus said that no one would put a lighted lamp under this(Luke 8:16) (3)
- 16Involvement (1 Corinthians 10:16) (13)
- 17Armed conflict (2 Chronicles 15:19) (3)
- 19Where the Gaderene pigs were feeding (Mark 5:11) (8)
- 24What jeering youths called Elisha on the road to Bethel (2 Kings 2:23) (8)
- 25The Venerable — , eighth-century Jarrow ecclesiastical scholar (4)
- 268 Across issued a decree that this should take place (Luke 2:1) (6)
- 27Come into prominence (Deut 13:13)

Down

- 1Where some of the seed scattered by the sower fell (Matthew 13:4) (4)
- 2Sexually immoral person whom God will judge (Hebrews 13:4) (9)
- 3Gospel leaflet (5)
- 4Physical state of the boy brought to Jesus for healing (Mark 9:18)
- 5Tugs (anag.) (4)
- 6To put forth (5)
- 10Nationality associated with St Patrick (5)
- 11Leader of the descendants of Kohath (1 Chronicles 15:5) (5)
- 12'After this, his brother came out, with his hand grasping — heel'(Genesis 25:26) (5)
- 13At Dothan the Lord struck the Arameans with — at Elisha'srequest (2 Kings 6:18) (9)
- 14'Peter, before the cock crows today, you will — three times thatyou know me' (Luke22:34) (4)
- 15Spit out (Psalm 59:7) (4)



- 18'When I — , I am still with you' (Psalm 139:18) (5)
- 20Concepts (Acts 17:20) (5)
- 21Thyatira's dealer in purple cloth (Acts 16:14) (5)
- 22Does (anag.) (4)
- 23The second set of seven cows in Pharaoh's dream were this(Genesis 41:19) (4)

**Churches Together in Addiscombe, Central Croydon and
South Croydon**

JOINT PROCESSION OF WITNESS

GOOD FRIDAY 2nd APRIL 2010



There will be a dramatic presentation of the Good Friday events, with processions from North, East and South Croydon converging at the Whitgift Alms Houses at 11am. We still need volunteers to join us in this very special act of witness. We need more actors and singers, so do come along if you can help in any way. We also are in need of physically strong men to help carry the body of Christ as part of the procession. All rehearsals are at St Mary Magdalene, Canning Road, Addiscombe. Parking spaces are available.

Thursdays 18th 25th March from 8pm to 10pm

Sunday 28th March from 3pm to 5.30pm

Phone Mary Conlan for more information 020 8657 1248.

London Underground Quiz

- 1 A bread & cheese
- 2 Old actor gets a round of applause in Scotland
- 3 Be prepared with emergency rations
- 4 Very tall with a fine head of hair
- 5 Where the Dutch play
- 6 Aussie party and one part of a six pack
- 7 Make them envious
- 8 Giants without eye, gets mound
- 9 Sable chippies
- 10 Monarch is upset
- 11 Nobleman's crossing
- 12 Lays trap to catch stream
- 13 Maidstone, Westerham or Tonbridge perhaps
- 14 Where Morse met a clown
- 15 Line of flower beds
- 16 Certain trench



Answers on last page

Articles for the **APRIL** issue should be submitted by **Thursday 25th March**

The next magazine will be available on **Sunday 4th April**. 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

By using Google Analytics we are able to count the 'hits' on our church website. Since October we have had 104 'visitors', 77% of these were new to the site. Have you had a chance to look at the website yet? www.shirleymeth.org



If you have anything you would like to be includedany photos to share then please let Kate Marsden know 8654 0872
 kate.marsden@tesco.net

Shirley Neighbourhood Care Shopping Bus to Tesco

Tuesdays in March - 2nd, 16th 30th

Wednesdays in March - 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th

RETURN FARE: £4.00

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

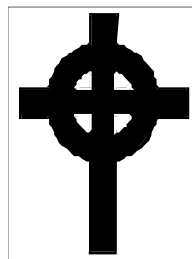
- Answers
- ACROSS:**
- 1, Planet.
 - 2, Clapham north
 - 3, Stockwell
 - 4, High Barnet
 - 5, Holland Park
 - 6, Barbican
 - 7, Turnham Green
 - 8, Gants Hill
 - 9, Blackfriars
 - 10, Kings Cross
 - 11, Knightsbridge
 - 12, Snarebrook
 - 13, Kentish Town
 - 14, Oxford Circus
 - 15, Kew Gardens
 - 16, Shoreditch
- DOWN:**
- 1, Path.
 - 2, Adulterer.
 - 3, Tract.
 - 4, Rigid.
 - 5, Gust.
 - 6, Exude.
 - 10, Irish.
 - 11, Uriel.
 - 12, Esau's.
 - 13, Blindness.
 - 14, Deny.
 - 15, Spew.
 - 18, Awake.
 - 20, Ideas.
 - 21, Lydia.
- Underground Quiz

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Jean Beecher	Guild	8654 2891	
Kelynge Green	Hall Grange	8777 8460	
Pearl Spittle	Prayer Chain Fellowship	8654 5894	
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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@cnc.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

MAGAZINE SUPPLEMENT

A Pastoral Letter to the Methodist People from the President and Vice-President of the Conference and the General Secretary

(following the address of the President and Vice-President to the General Synod of the Church of England on 11th February 2010)

And are we yet alive? Our answer, despite some recent press speculation to the contrary, is a resounding “Yes!”. We have seen the evidence in various ways through our complementary roles. As President and Vice-President we have represented the care, oversight, authority and support of the Conference as we have visited local churches and situations in different parts of the connexion. We have seen the Methodist people being faithful and the Spirit at work in them and through them. We mentioned some examples in our address to the General Synod. As General Secretary, Martyn is responsible for leading the development of the mission of the Methodist Church. He too has seen evidence of energy being released amongst us.

We are all convinced that God is not finished with the people called Methodist yet. We began as a discipleship movement within the wider church, a society of people seeking holiness and engaging in worship and mission. In Wesley’s time and through succeeding generations we have continually adapted to circumstances to fulfil that calling as effectively as possible. It is still Our Calling today. And mission has never been more needed than it is now. We live in a world ravaged by war and poverty, and torn apart by questions of how we care for the natural environment and the morality of financial systems. We live in a world where people need to hear the word of God in a language they can understand, where they need to see the love of God through people like us and experience it as good news for themselves. We live in a world where not enough people are being attracted and formed into disciples of Jesus Christ, responding to the promptings of the Spirit.

Responding to situations like this, allowing God to transform us so that we can be most effective in doing so, supporting each other in that through our interconnections, is what Methodism has always been about. We best honour those who have gone before us by doing the equivalent in our time and our circumstances of what they did in theirs. It is our DNA as a people to

be a group of disciples who are committed to glorifying God in worship, to holiness and to being obedient and active in mission. We are therefore delighted to see an increasing interest in and commitment to discipleship amongst us.

We believe that God has a role for us in this mission, and we are increasingly embracing it. We have about 265,000 'card-carrying' members, and that number has been decreasing because of the age-profile of our members. But more churches are making more members each year; a quarter of our churches are growing; the numbers worshipping with us on Sundays and, increasingly, mid-week is rising; fresh expressions are starting to flourish; we have regular contact with over 800,000 people; and we are part of a growing world-wide Methodist communion of over 70 million. There is a growing self-confidence amongst us accompanied by an appropriate humility about ourselves, and a releasing of energy for mission.

But we are not the whole of the church, and we cannot do it all by ourselves. So we have voted consistently over the years for unity schemes that are designed to increase the whole church's effectiveness in mission. This is not a death wish, but a desire to be obedient and a willingness to be transformed. We can countenance ceasing to exist as a separate Church because we know that we will still be the Methodist people within a wider Church.

As our major statement on the nature and mission of the Church Called to *Love and Praise put it in 1999* "the British Methodist Church may cease to exist as a separate Church entity during the twenty-first century, if continuing progress towards Christian unity is made". Methodism will still contribute some of the riches of its own distinctive history and mission to any future church. We know from that history that we can be the Methodist people either in our own separate church or in some wider expression of the universal church. Helping to create a wider expression of the universal church and becoming part of it will require not just us but other churches to be prepared to move forward together and to leave some things behind in the process for the sake of the Kingdom. So it is not a question of Methodists being submerged or absorbed in the Church of England or any of our other partners. It is not a matter of Methodists returning to the Anglican fold, but

of seeing whether together we are prepared to become a 'new fold'.

This is not just true of our relationship with the Church of England. We have also signed a Covenant with other churches in Wales, and recently a partnership with other churches in Scotland. We have many local partnerships with other churches, the United Reformed Church in particular. And we are all part of wider denominational groupings. For example, the world-wide Methodist communion is over 70 million strong and the world wide Anglican communion about 78 million. Both are faced with questions of how they cohere in the 21st century, and how they deal with situations where there are competing and even contradictory convictions within them. In addressing these we have a lot to share with each other.

When we addressed the General Synod it was only the second time that the President of the Conference had done so; the first since the Covenant between the Methodist Church and the Church of England was signed in the presence of Her Majesty the Queen in 2003; and, importantly, the first time the Vice-President and the president had been invited to address the Synod together. What we were saying to the General Synod was that Methodists have always been committed to unity in order to create greater effectiveness in worship and mission. We said that thinking like this comes naturally from our spirituality. We approach our Covenant with the Church of England in the light of the Covenant Service in our Worship Book which we pray each year. We were gently but urgently asking the General Synod whether the Church of England was prepared to make the same commitment and allow itself to be transformed for the sake of the gospel. And what we say to the Church of England we say to our other partners.

So what happens if other churches are not prepared to be changed in order to become more effective in mission with us? Rather than being groups of Methodist people in a new and wider church, we shall continue as a Methodist people in a separate Methodist Church faithfully trusting in God's continuing leading of us. We could do that, and we currently do. But even as a separate church we shall have to continue to co-operate with others in mission wherever possible and to whatever extent it is possible.

Whether co-operating with others or allowing a wider expression of the universal church to come into existence will require a lot of working together in mission locally. Doing that will throw up some obstacles that will have to be removed and some issues that will have to be resolved if mission is not to be hampered. Some of those include matters of interchangeability of ministries, common decision-making structures, the role of women in the church, and how oversight is embodied. Much work has been done on these and some people will have to be asked to keep working at them on our behalf. When we signed the Covenant we committed ourselves to working to remove any obstacles to visible communion so far as our relationship with the Church of England is concerned. Any solutions will have to be agreed by all of us in due course and by due procedure. But in the interim we must all keep striving to engage as effectively as possible in worship and mission. We have found the Methodist people in good heart, and an increasing sense of the energy of God's love being released amongst us. We are a people of one book, the Bible. We allow the gospel to both comfort and challenge us. We let the love of God both confirm and transform us in the body of Christ through the Spirit.

We are yet alive. We shall be alive in the future in whatever form God wills. God has not finished with us yet!

The Revd David Gamble

President of the Conference

Dr Richard M Vautrey

Vice-President of the Conference

The Revd Dr Martyn D Atkins

General Secretary

(copy of address to the Synod is available in the Welcome Area)