



ddington  
Methodist

*Magazine*



**CHRISTMAS 2020**





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Methodist

# Magazine

CHRISTMAS 2020

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## OUR PASTOR WRITES...

### What will happen?

*What will happen on (or maybe before) 2nd December 2020? Nobody knows!*

*The biggest question in everybody's mind will be – will this current lockdown end? Or will it simply continue into 2021? What restrictions will be in place during Christmas 2020? Will we be able to meet together as families? Will we be able to travel – both within and without our country?*

*As a family we are anxiously waiting for that announcement or broadcast from the government about what will happen. You see, our eldest grand daughter will be getting married after Christmas in the USA. We've looked at flights to and from the venue; calculated costs (maybe I shouldn't have bought that gadget last week!) and wondered if our savings will be enough to get us to that wonderful event. We want to plan for that date. In fact, we've spoken together about holiday plans and how long we can be away. Will we have to quarantine on our return? It'll be a "first" of such events in our family and we can't wait. And so .... We wait!*

*Around this time, according to our tradition, a young couple were also waiting for a "first happening" in their lives. They'd already had a bumpy start in their relationship – what with an unexpected pregnancy; a number of dreams and visions of angels visiting both of them; being told who their son was and what his name should be. And to make life more difficult – we know, but they didn't! – they'd have to make the arduous journey to Bethlehem for an unexpected census and then flee to Egypt in order to save their son from the murderous actions of a desperate, wicked king.*

*There is a saying 'the best laid plans of mice and men' .... Often go awry. This comes from a poem written by Robert Burns as an apology 'To a Mouse'*

*(1786) after he'd upturned the mouse's nest whilst ploughing a field.*

*... But, Mousie, thou art no thy lane [you aren't alone] In proving foresight may be vain: The best laid schemes o' mice an' men Gang aft a-gley, [often go awry] An' lea'e us nought but grief an' pain, For promised joy. ...*

*The saying means 'the most careful plans may go wrong'.*

*Today is Remembrance Day 2020 and I've just watched the BBC broadcast commemorating the Centenary of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier or Warrior. It was extremely moving. Even more so to think that it all came about because of the actions of a Methodist Padre in World War I. Revd David Railton was the name of that Padre and you can read an article (written by him) on how it all came to fruition here - <https://www.westminster-abbey.org/media/12819/unknown-warrior-origin-our-empire.pdf>*

*Revd Railton's plans were eventually fulfilled, and it made me wonder what plans are we busy making today? And I don't just mean plans for Christmas 2020 – although rumour has it that it's been cancelled like everything else in the last 9 months! Plans for the future resulting from possible or probable past experiences, being played out now in the present. Plans not just for yourself or even your immediate family. But plans that will involve and*

*incorporate others. One thing we've learned from the Coronavirus Pandemic is how to look past ourselves and to look out for the welfare of others. Seeing that the needs of our neighbours are met. Communities coming together. Ordinary people (and the not so ordinary like Marcus Rashford) who have gone far out of their way or comfort zones, to help others and ensure that they are looked after.*

*As we contemplate Christmas, where we celebrate the coming of Christ to this earth and then the New Year of 2021, celebrating God's goodness in allowing us to move into an unknown future year can we combine the two? Let us allow Christ's coming to be celebrated in our lives by our acceptance and belief in Him. Knowing full well that 2021, with all its joys and sorrows will be even more fulfilling with Christ by our side, guiding and giving us the strength to carry on.*

*Yes, it's true. The most carefully prepared plans may go wrong. But we can hope! And pray that our plans for the remainder of the year may come to fulfilment.. God bless you; may you have a blessed Christmas and a truly prosperous New Year.*

*Bennie*

## ARE WE THERE YET ?

We've been travelling towards a 'new normality' for rather a long time. We've been horrified to see TV pictures of youngsters partying and celebrating in spite of lockdown restrictions while we meticulously followed the rules. Did we miss an announcement that it's all over? Are we now free to celebrate Christmas in the traditional way?

Not really! The government has relaxed some rules - a little - but Covid-19 is still with us, and can kill us and all those we breath over when we talk to them.

Meeting friends outside is pretty safe provided we keep our distance. Meeting inside is risky. Shaking hands is VERY risky, and kissing under the mistletoe: !!!.

Can we worship in church? The new guidance from UK Government for our TIER 2 region (from 2 December) says:

**“Places of Worship can be open - but cannot interact with anyone outside household or support bubble.”**

This is not the 'normal situation' we were hoping to resume. We can't welcome strangers, sing carols, join in with responsive readings, recite The Lord's Prayer, or even say AMEN at the end of the Minister's prayer - unless we mutter silently into our face masks.

The Addington Leadership Team met on 1 December, and decided

### **NOT TO RE-OPEN THE CHURCH YET**

...because we cannot ensure the safety of our folk gathering together.

Hopefully that situation will improve. There is already (2 December) news that a vaccine has been approved for use in UK. But it will take a long time to immunise everybody.

*David Fanshawe*



# Our Church Matters



We are sorry to hear that MYRTLE CLARK has had a fall and seriously injured her arm and shoulder.

We are delighted to hear that BENNIE & JENNY have been able to book a flight to Florida over Christmas to see the family and attend a family wedding, postponed from last summer.



## LETTERS

Pam and I would be grateful if AMC could think and pray for Graham at this particular time.

When we spoke to him yesterday he advised us that in addition to being the Lead Consultant for Elderly Medicine at St James's Hospital, he has been asked to head up their 10 Covid Wards which at current numbers may increase to 12 by the end of this week.

He is dealing with pre and post Intensive Care but the sheer number can become overwhelming.

From a personal point of view he is trying to shield Bridget for hopefully we will have a further grandchild come Spring 2021 - so it is all happening at once.

Bless you,  
Dean & Pam.

I would like to wish all friends at Addington A Very Happy Healthy Christmas & New Year.

Thank You for all your good wishes in my recovery, it seems as if its going to be a long painful journey.

God Bless

Love Myrtle

It has been lovely to see people's response to my points in Septembers magazine.

Great ideas from Lynn to make up for the fact we can't do tea and a chat after services. The virtual coffee in the hall sounds like a great idea.

Ken, I hope that you get the opportunity to walk with your friends again. It's hard keeping up with the change in rules, but it seems that outdoor meet ups are thankfully allowed.

I really enjoyed speaking to Ken after each weekly service after Ken realised I hail from Dudley. Ken is such an interesting and friendly person. You got me started and I feel I should share a bit of my link with Addington.

I used to live in the North of the borough, and moved to Addington 10 years ago. I was a keen walker, and discovering Selsdon wood drew me away from the concrete of Thornton Heath to the greener side of Croydon. Although Mark and I married in Streatham Methodist church, and we continued to travel there once we moved down here, we eventually started to attend Addington Methodist; a 5 minute drive down the road.

We love the fact that our daughter loves junior church. Growing up in Dudley, I loved going to Sunday school (I still remember aunt Glynis; my Sunday school teacher, and the annual prize giving, where I once received my first bible (I still have it after all this time), so hope my daughter will continue to enjoy junior church for many years to come. Often parents can point out things that their children like doing that provides an escape from things that they find difficult; some children may struggle at school, but find comfort and enjoyment from junior church, or a dance class.

Stay safe and connected everyone.

Mandy

**BENNIE'S BLOG****Exercise, YES !**

I've always been of the opinion that exercise is dangerous for you. Recently, I've resumed walking in the morning and have set myself a daily goal of walking two miles. I have this 'app' on my watch that I set when I'm going for my walk. It's very clever! It tells me how many steps I've done, the total distance, total time and my average pace in minutes per mile. So, my morning ritual is to get dressed in a tracksuit and cap, running shoes, headphones and my phone. As I set off the app starts working whilst I talk to 'Alexa' asking her to play music for me on my phone. (She can be quite difficult sometimes and won't work properly.)

I used to walk around the block to complete a mile. But the effects of lockdown on my physique have forced me to increase the distance to two miles. I have two routes that I take. The first is along the main road, using the footpath, towards West Wickham which is nice and flat. The second route is up Gravel Hill to the top and back. This morning I went towards West Wickham. I did the Gravel Hill route yesterday and nearly died! My return home today was against a gale force wind (well, I thought it was!) and because I have to reach a certain speed I really pushed myself hard. When I finally reached home and sat down my family were most concerned and almost phoned for an ambulance because I looked so bad.

It took my mind back to 1983. We were living in a town called Benoni and we were in the process of having a new church built. (There's a few blogs in that story, I can tell you!) The builders we were using owned a gym in the town and invited me to try it out. Very early one morning, I attended my first and only aerobics class. I had a great time. After-

wards I enjoyed sitting in the sauna, had a shower, got dressed and headed out of the gym to my car. It was only across the road, so it wasn't far. When I came to cross the road, however, I nearly got run down by a truck. I had seen it approaching and so I started to jog across the road. Well, let's say I attempted to jog! I knew I had plenty of time to get across the road and my brain told my legs what to do and off I went. Only to seize up in the middle of the road. My legs could only manage three steps after being annihilated during the aerobics class. The truck swerved around me and the adrenaline that the incident created got my legs working again. But only as far as the car. I got in and just sat there. I couldn't lift either of my legs onto the pedals they were shaking so much. I suppose an hour's aerobics, in my poor physical condition, was just too much! Needless to say, I didn't take up the offer of a discounted membership at the gym.

Seriously though, do you get enough exercise to maintain being a healthy, well-balanced individual? Luke, the gospel writer, speaks of Jesus growing spiritually, physically, mentally and socially. (Luke 2 vs 52) We often exercise our bodies and our minds. But lockdown has had such a damaging effect on our spiritual exercise - coming or going to church and being sociable people. The dangers of Covid-19 are not just to our physical health but to maintain that full balance in life we need to keep in touch with God, as well as our minds, bodies and those around. Jen and I listen to Leticia 365 (read more information at the end of this blog) in the mornings after breakfast. Those 10 minutes that it takes is truly a blessing and spiritually enriching. There are many ways to keep a balance in life of growing in wisdom and

stature and in favour with God and man as described of Jesus in Luke 2:52, and I would encourage you to find ways to do so. Why don't you drop me an email about how you exercise to maintain that daily balance? I'm sure I'll find it both illuminating and encouraging.

Enjoy your exercise.

God bless you.

Stay safe! Stay well!

*Bennie*

## LECTIO 365

<https://www.24-7prayer.com/dailydevotional>

LECTIO 365 is a daily devotional resource that helps you pray the Bible every day. DOWNLOAD ON APP STORE (Apple) Download on Play Store (Android) Written by leaders from the 24-7 Prayer movement, and produced in partnership with CWR, this resource helps you engage with Scripture to inspire prayer and shape your life.

## VINE FOOD BANK

There was a great response from AMC members, Preschool parents, Messy church members and the local community to the appeal for donations for The Vine food bank. Thanks to all who donated.

There will be another opportunity to support on Saturday 5th December between 11 and 12 o'clock.



# Christmas Worship

As London came out of Lockdown on 2 December the future was unclear. During November our churches had to remain closed, but the services advertised in the November Magazine took place as Zoom sessions. We will continue to offer Zoom services throughout the Christmas season.

Our Zoom Service on 6<sup>th</sup> December will be led by Caryl Rapps at 10:30am.

If you would like to join in (from your own home, using your laptop or phone) just send an email to [addmethzoom@gmail.com](mailto:addmethzoom@gmail.com) This will generate an automatic reply which gives you the address for the next Zoom service.

A **Croydon Circuit Service** by Rev Stephen Day is available on YouTube from 3pm every Sunday afternoon. Details on [www.croydonmeth.org](http://www.croydonmeth.org)

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## Prayer List

Week beginning:

- |          |    |                       |
|----------|----|-----------------------|
| December | 6  | Our Leadership Team   |
|          | 13 | Our Beavers           |
|          | 20 | Action for Children   |
|          | 27 | The Police            |
| January  | 3  | Peace in the New Year |
|          | 10 | Our Church Stewards   |
|          | 17 | Circuit Staff         |
|          | 24 | Property team         |
|          | 31 | Local Preachers       |



## ZOOM BY INTERNET

If you have a 'smartphone' or a 'laptop' or a 'tablet' with an Internet connection, joining a Zoom service is very simple. You need an INVITATION from the person who is in charge (the preacher or a helper). This is an email which gives you the time you should join and the electronic address you should use. Normally this will appear in blue, and will look like a fairly lengthy email address. Just click on that address, and wait for things to happen, then just follow the instructions that appear on the screen.

Remember that this is a live meeting (not a recording) so you will need to be on time - preferably 5 minutes early. If you are too early you will get a message advising you to wait until the organiser lets you in.

As other people join you will see their pictures in small boxes, with their names underneath. You can also hear them as long as they are not 'muted'. Normally people are initially muted, so they (including you) can only be heard if they 'unmute' themselves - by clicking the microphone icon (which is usually at the bottom of your screen).

## ZOOM BY PHONE

The Zoom services can also be reached via landline or mobile telephone. Your phone company will charge you per minute unless you have 'free weekend calls'. You'll hear everyone who is there and you will be able to talk to them, but you will not be able to see each other.

We, as a Team, are anxious that we have contact with you in this way and look forward to you joining the services by phone if you don't have Internet.

Dial any one of these London numbers:

020 3051 2874 or 020 3481 5237 or 020 3481 5240 or 020 3901 7895.

If the line is busy, try the next number. When they ask for your Meeting ID enter 818 9434 6899 followed by '#'

For example::

**Dial - 020 3051 2874**

Response - " Enter your meeting ID then '#'

**Type - 818 9434 6899#**

Response - " Enter your participant number, or enter '#'

**Type - #**

Response - 'You have joined the meeting your host will let you in'

If you cannot join the meeting, please make contact with me after the service (sorry if you miss it) and I will help you (over the phone) to get onto Zoom and enjoy the services thereafter.

*Bennie Harms*

## CONCERNS



## WHAT IS THERE IN A HYMN AND A PRAYER?

Just recently my best man Brian and his wife sent me a letter containing some [to quote Brian] "Helpful thoughts". They were in the form of some hymns and prayers.

One of the hymns referred to was Anna Waring's lovely hymn "In heavenly love abiding". I remember many years ago when I was on a Methodist Guild Holiday meeting a young man from Manchester. He had recently become a Christian and had got involved with a very lively bunch of Christians and he used to go to meetings with them. There was one meeting he particularly wanted to go to but he wasn't able to get to, he was so disappointed at the joy and excitement he was missing, then he remembered a couple of lines from Anna Waring's hymn:

"The storm may roar without me, my heart may low be laid, But God is round about me, and can I be dismayed"

Brian's letter also included several prayers including a wonderful daily prayer very relevant to these days of lock downs and corona virus:

Our loving heavenly Father

I thank-you for all the blessings of yesterday

I ask you to be especially close to me today, tomorrow and in the days ahead. Strengthen me physically, mentally and spiritually. Grant me all the patience and the courage I need to take one day at a time Guide me in all the decisions I have

to make I ask you to grant me the peace that only you can give, that deep sense of peace, calm and the ability to cope, even in the most difficult situations

Thank-you Lord. Amen

I would like to conclude with the three verses of Anna Waring's hymn:

In heavenly love abiding,, no change my heart shall fear. And safe in such confiding, for nothing changes here.

The storm may roar without me, my heart may low be laid, But God is round about me, and can I be dismayed?

Wherever He may guide me, no want shall turn me back. My Shepherd is beside me, and nothing can I lack. His wisdom ever waketh, His sight is never dim. He knows the way He taketh and I will walk with Him.

Green pastures are before me, which yet I have not seen.

Bright skies will soon be over me, where darkest clouds have been. My hope I cannot measure, my path to life is free. My Saviour has my treasure, and He will walk with me.

*Ken Dudley.*



Addington Methodist Church  
Huntingfield

Supports 'The Vine' Food Bank in New Addington  
Run by The Salvation Army.

There is a greater need for help due to the ongoing  
pandemic. To help us help others there will be  
a collection point in front of the church on

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December**  
**10:30 – 12:30pm**

**TINNED & DRY FOOD ~ TOILETRIES & TOYS**

**Remember a loved one by  
Decorating and hanging  
a decoration on the  
Christmas Tree  
Donation of £1 to  
The Vine Food Bank**



The Steward would be grateful to  
receive your donation

Enquiries: Bennie Harms (Lay Pastor)  
Tel: 07900890384

## LAYWORKER'S LABORATORY



Christmas 2020 greets us with a challenge in how we share tidings of comfort and joy. Will this be Good News in the form of baby Jesus in a manger? Or that a Covid vaccine is available!

As the news spreads will it unite or divide us? Will we use goodness to end pain and misery, unite a world in one mission, or decide that we should only help ourselves?

Youth organisations, and uniformed ones in particular, have had a tradition of encouraging young people to think about others, research reflections and be change-makers, often with global consequence. Realising skills of leadership has been a purposeful aim between the generations, passing experience down from old to young in renewing phases. Sometimes we become aware of one significant leader, most people know that Queen Elizabeth II was a Girl Guide, other times the effects of raising young leaders are less obvious.

Dennis Finch was a member of Downsview Church and served the Boys' Brigade as an Officer for over 70 years. By his steadfast service and sure love of Jesus, there are now hundreds of men (and some women) who have gone on to employment in which they have taken a lead, as well as lived lives which benefit others. Their impact is enormous by the example that Dennis set when they were young. This means that the majority of those who currently lead 5th Croydon Boys' Brigade were nurtured in some way into leader-

ship by Dennis. Dennis was instrumental in creating a community and this community has global impact.

Leadership in the 5th Croydon begins young. For the past few years I have had the privilege of working alongside 'Mr Finch', raising teenage leaders. We begin by offering the opportunity of helping the 5-8 year old Anchor Boy and 9 - 11 Junior groups. This means that each week we have two or three teenagers learning how to plan, prepare, communicate, encourage and ... tidy up! The younger boys learn, the teenagers grow and the leaders nurture the legacy.

Blessed by a number of volunteers we have given to teenagers a wide range of experience to help them develop leadership. Teachers, administrators, engineers all help form the great group of volunteers I have been blessed to work with who, together, pass on skills to a younger generation. One young leader was awarded a community service certificate by the Deputy Lieutenant of Croydon, another completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award with us. The teenagers' rewards are also real seeing how they have helped the younger boys play a sport, make a craft and learn about the world. It has been hard work, but delightfully rewarding. Other youth groups have a similar story.

Hard work has been going on in different groups all over the world to produce a world changing serum that gives others health and freedom. Not all of us have chemistry skills, not all of us can lead others but all of us can walk in the ways of Jesus.

### **Psalm 46 1 - 10**

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth gives way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells.

Come and see what the LORD has done. He makes wars cease.

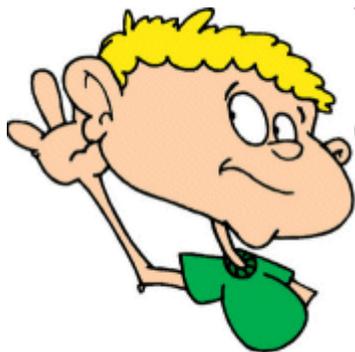
He says, "Be still, and know that I am God."

Wishing you peace, joy and season's greetings,

*Lindsey Macfarlane & Family*  
*Circuit Youth Development*  
*& Safeguarding Officer*  
 Lindsey@croydonmeth.org  
 020 8653 2424

More online information via [www.croydonmeth.org](http://www.croydonmeth.org) and Facebook: Lindsey Croydon Meth

Keep an eye on the Circuit Website for the latest news



Face to face meetings are currently suspended due to the global pandemic situation. However some events will be taking place online and other activities. We ask that you pray for blessings on our community as we live in a different way.

**Prayers please:**

on **Monday** for Children and those who are vulnerable

on **Tuesday** for Families and carers.

on **Wednesday** for Guides and Scouts

on **Thursday** for Girls' & Boys' Brigade

on **Friday** for Young People, Schools & Futures

on **Saturday** for Special Occasions and Celebrations.

on **Sunday** for All Ages and Community.

**Future Events**

**Café Worship** - Sunday 13th December, 5pm, contact Wendy Thompson, Christ Church, for online details

**Carols in the Car Park** - Sunday 20th December, 2.30 - 4.00pm, Downsview Church: 30 minute gatherings with an invitation to pre-book



# 'OWLERS

## Jokes and Puzzles from Hoot & Screech

Hi! Christmas is coming, not as we normally know it, but we hope that you will be able to enjoy yourselves. We have had a very mild autumn and there are even new leaves on some of the trees in Selsdon Woods. Even some of the brambles have little white flowers on them already. So we look forward to Christmas and another New Year, we may not be able to see each other live, but you can always go on Zoom and catch up with friends. Enjoy the presents!

### *Hoot & Screech*

#### *The Beautiful Game*

- 'Our goalkeeper didn't have a save to make in 90 minutes, and yet he still ended up conceding four goals' JOE ROYLE
- That was clearly a tackle aimed at getting revenge - or maybe it was just out-and-out retribution.' JOE ROYLE
- 'The Italians can blame no one but themselves. They can blame the referee, but they can blame no one but themselves.' JOE ROYLE
- 'There are no easy games in this division and this one won't be easy.' JOE ROYLE
- 'We played well for the first 90 minutes' JOE ROYLE

## JOKES



AMNESIA ?

*I have forgotten this one !*

ABSOLUTE ?

*The best stringed instrument !*

ANGLER ?

*Someone good at geometry !*

ASTRONAUT ?

*A spaceman who scores zero !*

ATTENDANCE ?

*A dance for 10 people !*

# SPOT 7 differences



## RESET THE DEBT

At the beginning of October, The Joint Public Issues Team\* (JPIT) launched their new campaign Reset The Debt.

An estimated six million people in the UK have fallen behind on one or more household bill as a result of Covid-19, with the biggest increases in debt amongst the poorest households.

People who were previously able to keep their head above water are now in severe difficulty. Others who had just been staying afloat, now face being overwhelmed by circumstances entirely beyond their control.

JPIT believes that this is an urgent problem that demands a solution. It is not right that those with the fewest resources should bear the heaviest burden of the lockdown, potentially for years to come.

**Now is the time for a solution to be found.**

JPIT believe people swept into debt by Covid-19 now need a Jubilee. That's why they are calling on the government to Reset The Debt.

For further information visit <https://resetthedebt.uk/>

If you would like to run a small group session online to explore Reset The Debt, and some of the theology behind debt forgiveness, you can find a 45-minute session on the website under "Resources".

Prayers for those experiencing household debt, and for a solution, are also available on this page.

*\* The Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT) is made up of the Baptist Union, the Church of Scotland, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church, working together for peace and justice.*

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## THE NEXT MAGAZINE ...

... will be published on the last Sunday in January Contributions to the Editor, Joyce Fanshawe, two weeks earlier please.

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If you have an email address we can send you a 'link' to download the magazine onto your PC or smartphone.

Or you can DOWNLOAD it FREE, from the Circuit website (Addington page):

[www.croydonmeth.org](http://www.croydonmeth.org)



