



ddington
Methodist

Magazine



OCTOBER 2020



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OUR SUPERINTENDENT WRITES...

Dear friends,

We have begun a new connexional year like no other. In September last year I imagine none of us envisaged the prospect of a global pandemic which would have such a huge impact upon our lives. We have seen the impact upon us and those we love, whether in terms of our relationships, studies, work and health. We may have found ourselves forced to adapt our way of living in ways that feel uncomfortable and unnatural. Many of us will be aware of the pandemic's effects on people in other countries, some of which are less able to withstand the challenges than us in the UK.

September has seen several of our churches re-open for Sunday worship, albeit with limited numbers and no congregational singing. The opportunity to worship physically with others will no doubt be a welcome relief to many, even with the necessary constraints. However, we acknowledge that others may not find this appropriate for them at present; hence our continuing provision of online worship via Zoom and YouTube.

Reflecting the new circumstances for worship at the beginning of this connexional year I would like to share two forthcoming events:

Circuit Reflection on Worship Discussion

Tuesday 29 September at 8.00 pm via Zoom

This open discussion will allow us to reflect upon our experiences of worshipping in church under the new arrangements. We can discuss the joys and challenges as well as our ongoing questions. Revd Stephen Day will host and facilitate this discussion. Please contact Stephen on 020 8656 6997 or revstephenday@croydonmeth.org to receive the Zoom link.

Circuit Technology and Worship Forum

Tuesday 6 October at 8.00 pm via Zoom

*This forum is a chance to explore how we have been using technology to enable and enhance worship. What has worked well? Sharing best practises and technical tips. What ideas do we have as we move on? Adrian Pickett will host and facilitate this forum. Please contact Adrian on 020 8771 7222 or **adrianpickett@hotmail.com** to receive the Zoom link.*

I pray we could continue to experience the presence of Emmanuel “God with us” during this difficult period.

God bless,

Steve



To minimise risk of Covid-19 infection we are advised to keep Church doors & windows open and ensure a good flow of fresh air.

As Summer turns to winter, it will be colder than usual in our church, so we are advised to WRAP UP WARM for Sunday services.

Our Church Matters



We are delighted to hear that JANET GODFREY has a new great nephew. Blessings to him and his family.



We were sorry to hear that MYRTLE CLARK recently had a fall, but pleased to hear that she has recovered well.



Thank you so much for the lovely bunch of flowers given to David at Church a week ago. They are brightening up our room. I am missing being able to come to church, I hope that this may change soon. Thank you again,

Joyce Fanshawe

I'm writing to express my thanks for the lovely church flowers brought to me by Jenny and Bennie following the service on 6th September. So many flowers and so colourful that they could not fail to cheer, plus the fact that they were so long-lasting that a few blooms are still giving pleasure two weeks later.

I've not yet ventured out to church, but I 'have my name down' for the service on 27th September and it will feel so good to see other members of our church family again.

Jane Colvert.

BENNIE'S BLOG**A round 'Tuit'**

This week I had two incredible experiences that boosted my morale and encouraged me no end. For a couple of weeks now I've been looking at Facebook, particular a page by a young man called Richard. My wife and I knew him when he was a member of our church in Harare, Zimbabwe and in the last 30 years or so Richard has developed into a phenomenal artist. I sat one afternoon and just went through his complete set of drawings and paintings on his Facebook page. He shows the completed object and then on other pages he shows the painting or sketch in different stages of completion and it's a wonderful journey of his art. So, I messaged Richard after going through his Facebook page and his website as well and I told him how thrilled I'd been to see his wonderful gift coming through in his work. Without having to wait too long I got a message back from him. Like I said I knew him 30 years ago and honestly he was a young man who didn't show any potential in the field in which he now excels. In his message he reminded me of our ministry with them as young men despite all the problems that they gave us. He reminded me of a visit we made to his home and family in one of the high density suburbs of Harare and of the impact that had on him at the time. Something I completely forgotten about but which, nonetheless had helped him at the time. 'The love that you showed', he said, 'will forever be cherished'.

The second incredible experience was an encouraging email I received. It was from a man whom I have helped in the past and with whom I have a friendship. He simply said, he was sorry to hear I had been sick and wanted to provide some support. He added that when he was at college he had a friend who had a round

ornament on her desk with the word "TUIT" printed on it. This friend said it meant that she always got a round tuit. He concluded by saying, 'I'm busy but I can always rearrange things if you would like to meet up.'

So that's what we did on Friday afternoon at lunchtime. We met for lunch and just chatted about all sorts of things. It was a most wonderful experience. No demands were made on either of us. We were not sharing in order to help. We were simply enjoying each others' company and getting 'a round tuit' in such a way that it was encouraging for both of us.

How often do you promise yourself you will get around to it, and yet it never happens. At other times it may take a while and you do get around to it - whatever getting around to it might mean. It could be making a phone call, writing a letter, or just simply going for a walk around the block with a friend. It might be quite inconsequential for you, but full of meaning for the other person involved. Our lives have been changed so much by the coronavirus that for some of us getting around to it is quite a difficult task. Unfortunately lockdown means just that - we become locked down and almost unable to do anything, resulting in procrastination and serious frustration. (Although if the truth be told, Lockdown hasn't always been the reason for procrastination - but that's a discussion for another time, right?). We want to get things done. We plan to get things done. We see the need to get things done. But we just don't get around to it.

I came home from lunch that afternoon and shared with Jen (my wife) just how fantastic the experience had been. Here was a man who didn't need to reach

out in any way to me. He's busy with work at home and has a schedule to maintain. But, he took time out of his day to first of all send me an email offering to spend his (valuable) time with me - without demanding anything in return. He simply wanted to share as a friend and that meant so much to me.

Friends are important and mean so much to us all. Friends are valuable and can play an important role in our lives. Friends give of their time and make time for their friends. Friends are the icing on the cake of life, the cherry on the top. Without friends our lives would be so colourless and drab, so dull and almost lifeless.

Could you make a difference in somebody's life today by reaching out to them in some way?

It doesn't have to be something out of this world to make them feel like somebody special!

Think about it. Maybe you too, will get a round 'Tuit'.

By the way, if you want to see some of Richard's work go to www.rich-art.co.za or send me a message for his Facebook details. Who knows, you might even commission him to do a work of art for you.

Bennie

OFFICIAL GUIDANCE - 14 SEPT

To reduce the risk of catching or spreading coronavirus, try to keep at least 2 metres away from people you do not live with. Social distancing is essential to stop the spread of the virus, as it is more likely to spread when people are close together. An infected person can pass on the virus even if they do not have any symptoms, through talking, breathing, coughing or sneezing.

When with people you do not live with, you should also avoid: physical contact; being close and face-to-face; and shouting or singing close to them. You should also avoid crowded areas with lots of people; and touching things that other people have touched.

Where you cannot stay 2 metres apart you should stay more than 1 metre apart, as well as taking extra steps to stay safe. For example:

Wear a face covering; on public transport and in many indoor spaces, you must wear a face covering by law, unless you are exempt

Make sure rooms are well ventilated by keeping windows and doors open

You do not need to socially distance from anyone in your household, meaning the people you live with. You also do not need to socially distance from someone you're in an established relationship with, or anyone in your legally-permitted support bubble if you are in one.

It may not always be possible or practicable to maintain social distancing when providing care to a young child, or person with a disability or health condition. You should still limit close contact as much as possible when providing these types of care, and take other precautions such as washing hands and opening windows for ventilation.

www.gov.uk

October Worship

10:30am MORNING SERVICES

	Preacher	Stewards	Organ	Reader
4	Mr Bennie Harms	David + Manuel	Jenny	K.Dudley
11	Mrs Jenny Harms (LA)	Sonia + Olu	David	C Short
18	Rev Soon Cheol Choi †	Olu + Manuel	Jenny	S Smith
25	Mrs Ann Atkins	Sonia + Jenny	David	L White

Notes:

Services which include the sacrament of Holy Communion are marked †
 Junior Church & AM:PM meetings are suspended during the Covid crisis.
 Young people are very welcome to join the 10:30 services with their family.

A Croydon Circuit Service by Rev Stephen Day is available on YouTube
 from 3pm every Sunday afternoon. Details on www.croydonmeth.org

Prayer List

Week beginning:

- October 4 Our Guides
 11 Our Audio/Visual system operators
 18 Our Cubs
 25 Action for Children



WELCOME BACK TO CHURCH

We re-opened our church on 6th September.

But we must follow Government and Methodist Church rules to ensure safety:

1. We must all wear **FACE COVERINGS** (like for shops & buses).
2. We must sign in and give our phone number or email (for track & trace), then wait to be seated by a steward.
3. We must keep a safe distance apart - so there should be 3 empty seats between you and the next person **EXCEPT** for families or for couples who can sit close together.
4. We must not shake hands or hug anyone.
5. We must not sing the hymns, or pray loudly.
6. At the end of the service place your offering in the plate at the back of the church. If possible set up a Standing Order.
7. Do not stay to greet friends till you are outside again.

Because of social distancing rules we can only accommodate about 30 people in our church. We will therefore operate a **BOOKING SYSTEM** (like a theatre).

PLEASE TELEPHONE David: 020-8651 2504 by 5pm Saturday to book seats in church for your self, couple or family.

If you have not booked we will try to fit you in, but we are not allowed to exceed our safe capacity.

We can only reserve seats until 10:25am - so **DON'T BE LATE**.

WHEN YOU ARRIVE PLEASE WAIT OUTSIDE

A steward will help you sign in and show you to your seat(s).

PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN PEN TO SIGN YOURSELF IN

CONCERNS



HOW HAVE YOU BEEN MANAGING ?

by Ken Dudley

I don't know about you but during the months of lockdown I have been asked that question quite a few times, I have tried to be consistent in my answer to the question pointing out that each day at meal times I listen to the BBC Radio 4 news bulletins, namely the "Today" program, the "World News" news and the evening news. I pointed out that in the various reports from around the world regarding the Corona virus there has been numerous references from people around the world that as a result of social isolation they have experienced a considerable amount of mental stress. I have had a few not so good moments, but you just have to do the best you can. I have been quite surprised at the number of people have said to me "Oh, I can understand that".

With church Sunday services only just starting up again, and the two organisations I attend are still closed down for me the social isolation is now starting its sixth month, albeit a bit more relaxed version.

Just a few days ago I was listening to BBC Radio 4 to a lady giving a talk on "Thought for the Day", she made a very interesting little comment:

"We have got to allow for God's light to shine in, and then allowing for God's light to shine out of us!"

Now there's a thought!



FREE OFFICE SOFTWARE

When I worked for Philips in the 1980's they bought me a PC with Microsoft Office software to create my technical reports and presentations. And Microsoft allowed me to have a copy of the software on my home computer (at no extra cost)

When I retired I had to buy my own copy of MS Office. It was not cheap, but I was allowed to transfer the license every time I changed my PC, at no further cost. But Microsoft have realised they were being too generous. They don't want me to go on using Office 2007 for ever. They want to sell me Office 365. But that needs an annual subscription of £80!

Fortunately there is a very good alternative - LibreOffice. It can read all my old files created by Word, Excel and PowerPoint; it can save files in MS-365 format, and it is FREE. Actually it is "shareware", you can download it from the Internet and use it free of charge, and maybe send them a donation, to fund their work.

So if you're an eccentric millionaire, use Office-365. It's very good, but rather expensive. If you just need something that looks like Word, Excel and PowerPoint, and is compatible with their files, try LibreOffice, Maybe send the money you are saving to a more deserving charity than Microsoft.

David

MANDY'S VIEW

I wondered if there's any plans for the congregation to have a say about how the past few months have been for us.

It's really sad (and I know it's for everyone's safety) that we can't hang around to chat to each other.

We had to rush off yesterday anyway.

Is there no way that we can make use of the church car park to have a socially distanced catch up.

A member of the church pastoral team has been really supportive, in calling and checking if we're ok, and I liked the reference in Caryl's service to how the lonely have been cared for during lockdown.

I'd like to point out that anyone of any age can be affected by loneliness and isolation, and souls be cared for equally. I was speaking to a friend recently, and we both agree that people make assumptions about younger people and people in relationships not being affected mentally. It's important, especially as a Christian community to ask individuals how they're coping, and not make assumptions. Some people may be desperate for someone to talk to, or show they care. Quite often in any environment; people only support people they know and are used to.

In my Mom's church, in the West Midlands, her vicar has been good at calling her, but Mom had been disappointed that fellow church people she worships with have not called her.

When will the Sunday school children come together again? I'm happy to be involved in a socially distanced Sunday school somewhere, as I'm afraid that their interest in church will wane if they don't do things together.

Mandy Walker

SHARE YOUR VIEWS

This is where you can have your say about what is important to you. It's your magazine and your church.

We are just waiting for your contributions with your ideas and offers of help - and also your comments on other contributions.

Please feel free to criticise the rules we must follow, but don't criticise named individuals who are forced to follow the rules. Any articles that look controversial will need to be cleared by Bennie or Choi before publication, and may be edited to fit the available space.

ROTAS

You will remember that we used to have a page of monthly rotas in each magazine: lists of people donating church flowers; handing out hymn books; making the coffee and counting the collection each week.

We can't currently offer hymn books or coffee, but now we have re-opened we can have flowers in church again, and Cathy Oldham has agreed to organise the list in the vestibule. If you would like to provide the flowers for our Church one week, please tell Cathy.



'OWLERS

Jokes and Puzzles from Hoot & Screech

Hi! October is arriving and the trees are beginning to lose their leaves. Selsdon Woods are full of acorns and sweet chestnuts all over the ground and crunching when you tread on them. We have been so lucky this year with the weather, only two days when the rain stopped us having our daily walk, once in May and once in August. It has however been very windy and there are many branches and twigs all over the paths as well.

Hoot & Screech

The Beautiful Game

'We had a belief that we believed in'	JAN MOLBY
"It all went a bit grape-shaped"	JASON McATEER
"Jordan Henderson is a player who likes to do his business in the middle of the park"	JASON McATEER
"I'm definitely maybe going to play Sturrock."	JIM McLEAN
'I can't see us getting beat now, once we get our tails in front'	JIM PLATT
"The paint is hardly dry on Neil Warnock's sacking"	JIM WHITE
'Ian Durrant has grown both physically and metaphorically in the close season'	JOCK WALLACE

JOKES



WATCHDOG ?

A dog that can tell the time !

WATER BED ?

Where crabs sleep !

WATER POLO ?

What horses play in the swimming pool !

WATER TABLE ?

Where fish eat their dinners !

WEIGHT WATCHER ?

Who looks in the mirror all day long !

SPOT 7 differences



LAYWORKER'S LIST

Lindsey is not well, so we don't have a Layworker's Letter this month. We hope she soon feels better.

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.

Keep an eye on the Circuit Website for the latest news

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THE NEXT MAGAZINE ...

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

Phone: 020-8651 2504, or e-mail: david.fanshawe@physics.org

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

