

Shirley Methodist Matters



LOCAL LOCKDOWN WALKS

October 2020

Shirley Methodist Church

One of 'Churches Together in Shirley'

Eldon Ave, Shirley, CRO 8SD

www.shirleymeth.org.uk





Praise and Worship in October



PLEASE NOTE ALL GATHERED SERVICES START AT **10.30AM**
IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND, PLEASE PLEASE PREREGISTER EITHER BY EMAIL
SMC2020KATE@GMAIL.COM OR PHONE **020 8405 3222**

SUNDAY OCT **4TH** COMMUNION REVD CHOI

SUNDAY OCT **11TH** HOMELESS SUNDAY BENNIE HARMS

SUNDAY OCT **18TH** REVD LESLIE GRIFFITHS

SUNDAY OCT **25TH** BENNIE HARMS

THE SHIRLEY SUNDAY MORNING IS AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET.
DETAILS ARE ON THE WEBSITE - ALONG WITH THE WEEKLY NOTICES -
ON THE HOME PAGE SELECT - 'LISTEN TO THE LATEST SERVICE'
THIS IS AVAILABLE AFTER **7PM** ON THE DAY OF THE SERVICE.

WWW. SHIRLEYMETH.ORG.UK

EACH SUNDAY THERE WILL BE A YOUTUBE SERVICE, LED BY
REVD STEPHEN DAY AT **3PM**. IT CAN BE VIEWED ANY TIME AFTER THAT

MANY THANKS TO ALL THOSE PEOPLE WHO ARE MAKING
THESE DIFFERENT FORMS OF WORSHIP AVAILABLE TO US.

British Summer Time ends on **Sunday 25th October**
when clocks **go back one hour**.



Please contact us if you would like someone - or yourself - to be prayed for by members of our Prayer Chain. Names are only taken with the consent of the person concerned and stay on the chain for a week.

Margaret King 8777 3770 Elizabeth Smart 8681 0057
or via the 'contact us' form on [www. shirleymeth.org.uk](http://www.shirleymeth.org.uk)

Circuit Superintendent Revd Stephen Day 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 on Tuesday 29th 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 & Worship
Forum on Tuesday October
6th 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 practices 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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephen". The signature is written in a dark ink on a light background.

When Stephen came to speak at Guild in September to talk about his time in Germiston, near Johannesburg, he shared this lovely prayer with us.

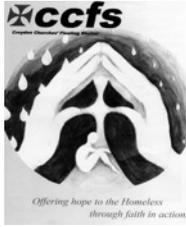
May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relations so that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression and exploitation of people, so that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, hunger and war, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and to turn their pain to joy.

And may God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in the world, so that you can do what others claim cannot be done, to bring justice and kindness to all our children and the poor.

Amen



Sandwich makers needed
to support Nightwatch
during 20/21 shelter season

Croydon Churches Floating Shelter (CCFS) is unable to operate this year but many of our volunteers have asked if there's another way they can help the most vulnerable in our local borough during the pandemic.

Nightwatch, which runs a 'soup run' in the centre of Croydon every night of the year is currently having to buy in sandwiches to cover the huge increase in demand for their nightly food service. **CCFS would like to help them!**

CCFS trustees have set an ambitious target to provide 8 loaves of sandwiches to Nightwatch every night during the shelter season – starting as soon as we can and finishing around the end of March. The idea is that instead of hosting our guests for 8 evenings during November and December, we would provide sandwiches on those nights for Nightwatch to distribute.

CCFS would cover the cost of ingredients so all we would need is your time!

Can you help?

To find out more, or to offer
your time as volunteer,
please contact

Jonathan Baxter on 020 8777 3158

For more information about Croydon
Nightwatch, please go to:

www.croydonnightwatch.org.uk



Family News

Elizabeth Smart writes:

October is a month when Shirley Methodist Church family has usually gathered to give thanks for the Harvest and sing the wonderful hymns - "All good gifts around us are sent from Heaven above, Oh thank the Lord, Oh thank the Lord, for all his Love". We may not be able (or allowed) to sing lustily but we can still show our appreciation for our daily bread given so generously to us so that we may be well fed, cared for and loved.

You will have seen in last month's Family News about Jean Cooper's 'Special Birthday'.



Her daughter, Jennifer Long has written to say: *Due to Covid restrictions, Jean had a quiet 100th Birthday at the end of August on a very cold day.*

Both her daughters were able to visit her in the garden at Hall Grange and Jean enjoyed strawberries for her tea. She was delighted to receive a card from the Queen. Thank you to everyone who sent her cards and good wishes, she did appreciate them.

A Harvest Appeal



During the whole of October we will have a Harvest theme running through the services. In the entrance porch at church there will be a basket for gifts of any food with a long shelf-life such as tinned food such as soup, meat, vegetables and fruit; packets of rice and pasta. Toiletries are also very welcome. Donations of blankets and sleeping bags (no clothes please) are very much needed. These gifts will be shared between Nightwatch which provides direct support

which provides direct support for homeless people and others in need and our local Shrublands Trust Food Bank. Monetary gifts are also very much appreciated - see **details on page 24.**

We have been able to meet together for worship during September and it has been very obvious how much this has meant to each of us, to be able to see one another and smile (above the masks) maintaining social distancing at the same time.



We remember all our Church Family and especially those who are housebound. We pray for them and also for Akos and Elliott Abadoo, Eunice Mutongerwa, Danuta Plummer and Beth Fairbairn. Phone calls and maybe a card or email have helped to brighten our days and have been appreciated by those who are shielding or unable to get around easily.

The residents and staff of Hall Grange are remembered in our thoughts and prayers. Family visits in the garden by appointment have been enjoyed – it has been a lovely summer for these visits to take place. The Wilderness garden has been transformed by the hard work of all the staff and volunteers and it will be wonderful when it can be open for all to enjoy. In the meantime Marco Galli has involved the residents in Green Care which is not only therapeutic for them but so enjoyable getting their hands into the planting of bulbs etc.

Our children and young people are in our prayers as they return to school, college and university after such a long time of disrupted education. We remember all who will be teaching and guiding them as the school term progresses .

We hold in our prayers Lay Pastor Bennie and Jenny Harms and Revd Choi and Sarah and their families.

Getting to know the church steward

Mildred Pratt (nee George) was recruited to join the team of Church Stewards earlier this year. Although Mildred was a member at Shirley a number of years ago, she moved to another local church for a few years, as she explains below.

Where were you born?

I was born in Freetown, the capital of Sierra Leone



What is your earliest memory?

Living in the outskirts of Freetown, surrounded by all types of fruits, including mango, pear, plum, cashew, grapefruit, banana, and orange trees. I was a tomboy - climbing trees with my younger brother. One day I climbed a cashew tree, missed my footing and the next thing, I was hanging head down by my skirt from a branch. My brother had to run home for help.

My climbing days were over!!! My childhood days were the best, filled with lots of love and fun.

Could you tell us a little about your family?

My parents were loving and caring and paid special attention to our education. There were four children, two boys and two girls. Presently there is just my older brother (USA) and myself. Both parents were devout Christians and we attended a Methodist church where my dad was also a local preacher. I have a husband, three sons (one in USA), one daughter (USA) and three grandchildren. My youngest granddaughter I care for two days a week. She is my joy and delight and keeps me fit running after her and trips to the park.

Where were you educated?

I was educated in Freetown - primary education at Cathedral School and secondary education at Freetown Secondary School for Girls. School days were fun, and I was always the first pupil in school as my dad had to drop me on his way to work. Hence, I am always early wherever I have to be, good discipline.

What did you do after you left?

On completion of my education, I travelled to UK for my nurse training. I arrived in December 1969, on a very cold snowy day. I was so cold when the plane door was opened, the rush of cold air into the plane made me shiver, I could barely speak. I was tempted to stay on the plane and return to Sierra Leone. No such luck. I travelled to Dundee, Scotland by train. The warmth and love that I received during my stay in Scotland, I will always cherish in my heart.

What is your current job?

I am retired. Before retirement, I was Senior Lecturer at the University of Greenwich School of Health and Social Care.



I never thought that after starting my professional career in Nursing, Midwifery, Paediatrics and Health Visiting, I will step into Education. I am deeply passionate about Health and Education.

How long have you been worshipping at Shirley Methodist?

I recently returned to Shirley Methodist. This is where I want to be as I continue my Spiritual Journey. When I moved to Croydon, I attended South Norwood Methodist Church, where I held the positions of Circuit Steward, Senior Steward, and Sunday school leader. Later I joined Shirley Methodist and was Communion steward and Worship leader.

I got married at Shirley by Rev Harvey Richardson and, because of our tradition, the bride must follow the groom to his church. That is why I left Shirley for an Anglican church.

Which church did you attend before?

I was at St Luke's church, Woodside. I took on active roles such as prayers of intercession, Bible reading and telling Bible stories (drama) at a local primary school. I thank God for my Spiritual growth at this church.

Why did you decide to make Shirley 'your' church?

I returned to Shirley because I am a true Methodist at Heart. I prefer the Methodist style of worship – Empty Cross – very symbolic to me.

How did you feel about becoming a church steward at Shirley?

I felt that I was 'back home' again and the warm welcome that I received from members who knew me was overwhelming. And so, when I was asked, I did not hesitate. I believe God uses us All to do His Work on earth.

What do you like to do in your leisure time?

Walking, reading, gardening, and travelling.

Tell us something about you which might surprise us!

I am co-director of a primary school in Sierra Leone. This is a community school as the land was given to us by the community. It is situated in a village in the Port Loko District, about 5 hours' drive from Freetown. This has been a challenging experience for me. I am grateful to God that the other director in Sierra Leone and his son are committed in making this school a success. We have a lot more to do and I know that God will continue to provide and guide us in our mission, such as starting school breakfast and having a Scholarship Fund to support pupils going to secondary school.

This is my contribution of 'Giving Back' to Sierra Leone for my education.

And 'Thank God' that I had parents

who showed me the importance of education and 'Giving Back'.

All details about the school are on the school website:

<http://milentashschool.org>



Thank you to the Proof Readers

Kate and I rely on just two proof readers nowadays – our husbands, Graham M and David C, who are pretty reliable at finding errors in the magazine drafts. When we took over editing the magazine in 2007 from Geoff Lipscombe, his amazing proof reader,



Paul Wright graciously agreed to continue proof reading for us.

Paul was always extremely thorough, marking 'corrections' with red pen; hardly anything got

past him, and he was most encouraging about the content.

When Margaret Chan was on the editorial team, she was a punctilious proof reader: it helped to have at least three pairs of eyes checking the text.

I was interested to read the following in a recent post from the **Association for Church Editors**. (Message to the proof readers – please don't alter the second paragraph!)

'However skilled you think you are at proof reading, your brain will trick you into not seeing all the errors. There is a theory that when reading your brain looks at the first and last letters of each word and then predicts the word – God created predicted text long before computers were created! Try reading this to see how your brain works ...

Olny srmatt poelpe can raed this

I cdnuolt blveiee taht I cluod aulacilty uesdnatnrd waht I was rdanieg. Its the phaonmneal pweor of the hmuan mind. Aoccdrnig to a rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it deosn't mtttaer in waht oredr the ltteers in a wrod are, the olny iprmoatnt tihng is taht the frist and lsat ltteer be in the rghit pclae. The rset can be a taotl mses and you can sitll raed it wouthit a porbelm. Tihs is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe. Amzanig! And I awlyas tghuhot slpeling was ipmorantt!'

Jneny Corok

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, and in 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 had 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 other’s 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 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'*.

Blessings,
Bennie

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.

Prayer Fellowship

From October 10th we will meet on the 2nd Saturday of the month, at a slightly later time of 9.15 am.

As we look forward to returning to church in very different circumstances, please pray for those who do not yet feel ready to attend. Here are some thoughts of situations that you may wish to pray about through October:

- + Pray for Choi and Bennie as they minister to us.
- + Please pray for all those who are looking for ways of halting the spread of Covid 19.
- + Please pray that this country will still be a place of welcome for those fleeing persecution.
- + Please pray for all the residents of staff at Hall Grange
- + Pray for all the people of the U S A as they cast their vote for a new president



Thank you from TLM (The Leprosy Mission)

In early February, Jarrett Wilson-Gray from The Leprosy Mission, led the morning service. Donations were made to support the charity's work.



Fran and Harvey have received the following email:

Hope you are all well. I just wanted to share that the staff at Mawlamyine Hospital in Myanmar have put together a short Thank You film for those churches who donated to support the work there and prevent the hospital from closure. It really is lovely so do have a watch (it's about 2½ minutes' long):

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ZOaihW_JFw&feature=youtu.be

Please do share around with members of the church however that works best for you. I think they would love to know the effect their donations have had. I know not everyone will be able to access the film online, but I can send a DVD of the

Thank You too if that makes a difference.

Would love to know how you are all getting on.

Best wishes from me and Blessings,



Jarrett Wilson-Gray, Regional Manager – London & South East

What's on at The Guild?

15th October, 8pm in the Main Hall

Ruth Tayler writes:

We'll welcome **Ann Lovelace** giving a presentation on the **Orpheus Centre, Bletchingly**. The Centre was inspired by Richard Stilgoe, to provide a residential space for young disabled students of university age to concentrate on the creative arts. Independent living is encouraged whilst building self esteem and confidence. Ann will be joined by **Angus**, an ex-student at the Centre and a wonderful singer. Come and enjoy a lovely evening. We'll take a special collection **in aid of the Orpheus centre**. There cannot be a more worthwhile cause to support!

Everyone in our meeting will be socially distanced and we invite all to wear a mask, especially when entering, exiting and moving around.

Faith lends its realizing light

Revd Lesley Griffiths writes:

The phone rang and the voice at the other end of the line announced, to my astonishment, that the Director of Islamic Relief wanted to speak to me. This was mid-2010, about six months after the earthquake in Haiti which had taken a quarter of a million lives and driven a million and a half people out of their homes. It's still the worst such natural disaster in living memory. It was on this subject that the Director wished to speak to me.

“The Muslim community has been deeply affected by the earthquake,” he explained. “They’ve subscribed £5.5m to our appeal for help.” Then he went on to explain that his Board had decided to send a small delegation to Haiti as a visible sign of solidarity with the Haitian people in their time of distress. It would be headed by Sheikh Ibrahim Mogra who, at that time, was the Secretary of the Muslim Council of Britain. They were most

anxious, he explained, that no one should suspect that the arrival of their delegation had any proselytising intentions. There was no hidden agenda. It was all about reaching out to people in their moment of extreme need. To ensure the transparency of this visit, he continued, they had decided to invite me to be part of the delegation, to co-lead it with Ibrahim Mogra. “Your presence will be re-assuring,” he concluded. And so it came to pass. Ibrahim and I, with the director of Islamic Relief, a journalist and a photographer, set out together on this unusual journey.



We toured the devastated capital city of Port-au-Prince. We sat with a number of the occupants of the tented cities that had been created to give

shelter to the “internally displaced people.”

We were able to discuss the international response to the crisis with some of those directing the relief operation. We met political and community leaders and even got ourselves invited to dinner with those commanding the Indian troops who were part of the UN peace-keeping force present in Haiti at that time. We spent time with a group of people who were building simple homes for the afflicted.

Everywhere we went, we were warmly received. I played two roles – the Christian counterweight on the one hand, and the interpreter in French and Créole on the other.



An abiding memory will always be the joint appearance of Sheikh Ibrahim and Rev'd Leslie at morning worship in one of our Methodist churches near

Port-au-Prince. Ibrahim wore his full robes and delivered a wonderfully simple, gracious, and warm message to the people gathered there. I preached about the unfailing love of God - a quality I'd noted times without number in the lives of the Haitian people. It was a transcendental moment to savour.

All very interesting but why have I chosen to write about this now, ten years after the event? For the simple reason that earlier this month I found myself called in to the Foreign Office to be part of a briefing exercise for the newly appointed British ambassador to the Dominican Republic and Haiti. It's the fifth ambassador in a row who's had to listen to my talk about the political and social history of Haiti. But this ambassador is different from all his predecessors. He's a Muslim. Mr Mockbul Ali has advised three Foreign Secretaries on Islamic relations and is described as having played a vital role in reaching out to Muslims worldwide.

He's been a member of the Foreign Office's Engaging with Islamic World Group and has served as the Head of *Prevent* – the government's counter ideology programme.



We hit the right note from the outset. It turns out that he and

I are both alumni of the School of Oriental and African Studies. And he knows Sheikh Ibrahim Mogra well. He was happy to hear of the post-earthquake visit we undertook together. There's a Haitian proverb, simple but oh-so-true, which states that "Behind the mountains there are yet more mountains". I left Ambassador Mockbul Ali with a clear idea of some of the mountains he'll be climbing over the next few years.

‘In sure and certain hope

Alan Frost writes:

Prompted by age, by decrepitude, realising that the construction of a memorial service is beyond the experience, though not the capacity of my children, I have been thinking about the glossy little booklet which will eventually prepared for me.

But thinking about my "Service of Thanksgiving" however, has given rise to one particular feeling of regret. I have not been brave enough to include hymn 973 from the old Methodist Hymn Book (MHB). Even those of you who remember MHB, and perhaps like me, regret its passing, are unlikely to know this particular hymn. Indeed I freely admit that I do not know the hymn nor its tune nor have I ever sung it. But I seem always to have known the first lines for ever. I have loved the words and have cherished them. I savour its first line as I would the first spoonful of a particularly gorgeous dessert

***“Rejoice for a brother deceased
Our loss is his infinite gain.”***

(forgive the non-inclusive language).

I have been proud and happy to have been a Methodist for the past sixty-five years but I have a feeling of nostalgia, of longing for the absolute confidence which is conjured up (for me) by these words. I ask myself whether I have ever had the zeal and confidence implicit in these words of Charles Wesley. There is a whole narrative to be drawn between words and deeds - even in Charles Wesley’s day. Any rejoicing I might have felt at Dierdre’s memorial service was overcome by the overwhelming sense of loss. But one goes on, and now there is rejoicing for a life well-lived though the sense of loss remains. But Charles Wesley wrote what he wrote! Arguably he was writing for his own day and age, for his people called “Methodists” and this was seemingly their experience, which they felt on the death of someone they cherished. Arguably, that is how he and his contemporaries understood death – as an occasion for rejoicing! In thinking in these terms they do no more than echo St Paul -

“for to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain” Phil 1.21.

I envy our forebears for the hope and the optimism they seem to have had on the loss of a loved one; for the conviction and certainty conjured up by those words. I have wanted and still want those feelings for myself. I cannot know to what extent our forebears actually did rejoice but seemingly St Paul and Charles saw death as an occasion for rejoicing and that is that. It is something I shall continue to anticipate.

Sadly for me for the time being, I cannot aspire beyond the rather more wishy-washy words of J.G. Whittier

***“I only know I cannot drift
Beyond his love and care.”*** MHB513.

Local Walks in Lockdown

During lockdown, we were encouraged to take some exercise in our local area, and for many a daily walk became routine. Despite holidays being cancelled or postponed, some Shirley folk have taken a staycation, staying away from home but within the UK. Where did you go and what did you see? Read on and find out from several intrepid walkers.

Like so many people, Steve and I really enjoyed our daily walks during lockdown. We walked every evening through familiar and well-loved routes around Shirley. It was great to wave to people and revisit old childhood haunts.

When lockdown eased we ventured further afield and one day went to Keston Ponds which we felt we knew very well. How wrong we were! We found many new paths and all at once came across the Wilberforce Oak.



Apparently this was the spot where William Wilberforce made the decision to push his bill to end slavery. What a great decision!! And what a lovely spot; great view, a seat where you can rest and of course, a lovely oak tree. Who knew that such an important spot was so close to home?

Alison Hunt

Going for a walk during lockdown was a new experience for us. For one thing the weather was almost unnaturally glorious. Was there ever such a beautiful spring?

We have always enjoyed taking a quick walk to Lloyd's Park, but being lockdown there was no hurry at all. Going for a walk was the main event of the day. As the weather was so hot it was good to walk early in the morning and with plenty of time we noticed things we might otherwise have missed. One morning as we walked over the hilly part of the park we spotted a green woodpecker coming to land, with its low undulating flight.



It proceeded to forage in the grass, quite close to us. We had watched for several minutes when it was joined by its mate. They were still busy, maybe looking for ants, when we eventually moved off.

We took to varying our walks, exploring the narrow pathways through the woods at the field edges and that was where we came aware of a deer watching us one morning; curious but unconcerned.



We had time to check, day by day, on the pussy willows and to notice how the catkins gradually opened into soft, grey-green cushions. Wild flowers started to appear – Clover, Yellow rattle, Bird's Foot Trefoil (Bacon and eggs), and Vetch after the Dandelions started to die off.

On Maundy Thursday we stood on a tree-lined path and watched in silence as white petals softly blew down from the trees, like snow, through the dappled sunlight. We listened to the birds and the rustle of leaves, but everything else was quiet. Peace for a while in a changed world.

Ann and Bill Jameson

“A gentle stroll for a pleasant afternoon” describes this walk.

For good measure it has historic connections readers might find interesting.

We begin on the site of the old Addiscombe Station which closed in 1997 prior to the construction of Tramlink. The Railway Park follows the route of the old railway line to Blackhorse Lane Tramstop. There is a small area set aside for the growing of a variety of fruits, flowers and vegetables, and a small pond with waterlilies, maintained by the Friends of the Railway Park.



Turning right at the Tramstop, up the steps and onto Blackhorse Lane, then right onto Morland Road, we're soon at Woodside Green. Passing the War Memorial, a sign directs the walker past some old cottages to Brickfields Meadow and Doorstep Green – what intriguing names! We now walk through a lovely green area (or on a very hot day,

take the alternative path through the trees), which soon leads to a small lake, flanked by rushes and usually a fisherman or two.



It's a peaceful place with a wooden bridge and a backwater; on my last visit I spied a coot's nest and several baby birds nearby.

This was the site of Handley's Brickworks which was bought in 1910 by Edward Handley and at one time employed 200 men. There were five brick kilns, seven tall chimneys, a huge clay pit and a narrow gauge railway. Many of the bricks used in the surrounding area were made here before it closed in 1974.

It is of special interest to Methodists that our friend Edward Handley's son, another Edward, is a life-long member of South Norwood Methodist Church.

While writing this I am reminded of the 'Wall of Witness' in our Welcome area, each 'brick' representing one of our number who together made up the church.

If you are looking for an easy, flat walk (about 2 miles), this would be a suitable choice.

Jean Beecher

Despite holidays being cancelled or postponed, some Shirley folk have taken a staycation, away from home but within the UK.

Walks in Suffolk

In early September, Christine and I left Shirley for Aldeburgh, on the Suffolk coast, for five nights. We visited various places on our trip and tried to walk every day. Lots of older people were about, and everywhere was booked solid for dinner so we ended up eating fish and chips on the sea wall!

On Wednesday we walked around Aldeburgh following a 'Treasure Hunt' map we bought on-line. We learned about Benjamin Britten, the Moot Hall, (a 15th Century Town Hall), the wooden fishing boats, and several buildings and alleyways in the town.



Thursday took us to Snape and the Maltings there – we walked out into a nature reserve, watching and listening to the birds by the river – curlews, gulls, and egrets.

In 1910, Glencairn Stuart Ogilvie, a Scottish barrister and friend of J M Barrie, turned Thorpeness into a private fantasy holiday village, to which he invited his friends' and colleagues' families during the summer. A country club with tennis courts, a swimming pool, a golf course with clubhouse, and many holiday homes, were built, and Thorpeness Meare was dug with islands and landing points named after people and places from the book 'Peter Pan'.

Southwold was our target the next day, where we followed the one way pedestrian system in the high street and went out on to the (very) blowy pier. Walking along the seafront, we spotted a Crystal Palace themed beach hut and took a picture.



On Saturday we walked around Aldeburgh marshes - by the river and low pasture the other side of a high bank. We returned to the town via the local allotments - very colourful with dahlias and sunflowers.

Andy Graham

Harvest Appeal

As mentioned in the Family News, both Shrublands Trust and Nightwatch would be most grateful for monetary donations. These can be given in one of the following ways:

Cash – put in an envelope and place in the basket by the exit door in church. Please mark the envelope ‘Harvest Gift’ and indicate on the envelope which charity you wish to receive your donation or if you wish it to be shared between the two.

Cheque – please make payable to ‘Shirley Methodist Church’ and again, mark the envelope ‘Harvest Gift’ and indicate on the envelope which charity you wish to receive your donation or if you wish it to be shared between the two.

Givt - There’s also the option of giving using your mobile phone through Givt which we have now activated.

**Bank transfer to the Shirley Methodist account –
sort code 20-24-61 account number 60798711**

In the reference box, please indicate which charity you would like to support with your donation by inserting:

- Harvest Sh** for Shrublands Trust
- or **Harvest N** for Nightwatch
- or **Harvest Sh N** to support both charities.

**Thank you for your donations,
which are desperately
needed at present.**



Geography in Rhyme



Our friend, John Pritchard has kindly passed on one of the popular quizzes he has set for his local church.

The answers consist of: 5 lakes; 10 mountains/ranges; 10 islands (all from anywhere in the world); and 5 towns in the British Isles

1. Crazy + indefinite article, so / American petrol makes this go.
2. Joseph's brother, briefly, starts here / See! The world (in French) will next appear.
3. In a churn from milk it's made / But neither lake nor tarn, I'm afraid.
4. Lots of these fly in the air / Even, shortened: have a care.
5. At Pentecost these walks were made / A leg bone add to this parade.
6. A sister of Lazarus, please say who / Has something owned by Naboth too.
7. A drink that's left as we sail out / This plant moves fast, without a doubt.
8. Made from honey, it's a drink / Or meadow it might be, I think.
9. Maximum's opposite, in short, here / With a killer whale, it would appear.
10. Shakespeare here is now espied / Surrounded by the ocean wide.
11. A vehicle first, then (this is funny) / Two Spice Girls shared chemist's term for honey.
12. A shabby trick, and then to be / (3rd person singular) with a weight: you'll see.
13. Again, a foreign language clue / "Fine sea" is what I need from you.
14. When you're cold, you might catch this / Aquatic birds you mustn't miss.

Continued on page 26 - 16 more!

15. A £10 note (in daily speech) / Where coral's found, nearby a beach.
16. Spike frame to break soil, cover seeds / A gap in a wall this surely needs.
17. When it's cold this might fall down / With Spaniard or Fellow of renown.
18. A male with headgear (just for fun) / Gets this from lying in the sun.
19. A bear of very little brain / Use this to hang clothes, in the main.
20. A form or substance we have here / Then blow this, and the answer's clear.
21. A seabird now, rarely in flight / A body joint makes this just right.
22. It's mightier than the sword, they say / Dressed up to these, how smart are they?
23. A lot of males, if you please / We place our crudités in these!
24. A simple answer won't go amiss / An Irish policeman's known as this.
25. A solid square, to third power raise / With indefinite article: no delays.
26. A hoist to haul things up, then name / A heroine of biblical fame.
27. A cup (in French) is what this says / Followed by an obsessive craze.
28. Another clue in French – no, wait / "White mountain" is all you must translate.
29. A counter or rod, then window or tree / And a measure of medicine: now tell me.
30. This goes on and on, indeed / Perhaps a sleep is what you need?

Answers on page 29

Waltzing with Lady Rona

David Crook writes about our changing language - most of it culled from the internet or newspapers, but hey, "one man's plagiarism is another's research project"!

She's leading us a merry old *danse macabre*, isn't she, this pesky **Miley Cyrus**? And she's changing our language too, with a spate of Covidisms (additions to our pandemic vocabulary). The **Covid Waltz**, by the way, is that awkward manoeuvring to avoid close contact in shops or on pavements. I thought you might like to enjoy the inventiveness and gallows humour of the last few months – at least it's better than **Doomscrolling** which is the obsessive search of the internet for the latest bad news (see also **Coronadosing**)

So sit back with your **Furlough Merlot** and I'll run through some of the best. The wine is not obligatory – you could also enjoy a **Quarantini** or even a **Locktail** from your own home **Isobar**. Perhaps you might have some bubbly to make your **Bubble** even more social/sociable. Or maybe you are in a **Double Bubble** with another household – unless that's too much toil and trouble.

How are you coping with these "unprecedented times" (standard government excuse for getting things wrong)? Are you suffering from **Coronanoia** as you ride the **Coronacoaster** of mood swings in confinement? Lack of physical contact (i.e. hugs) could result in **Skinhunger**, while too much time together in Lockdown might lead to a **Covidivorce**. **Quarantime** in isolation passes very slow, especially for stropky **Quaranteens** in the household who could fear being **Zumped** (dumped via videocall) if they can't get out to socialize. Whatever you do don't let them become **Covidiots** by going to a rave – that could be a real **Boomer Remover** for Granny and Grandad. And the neighbour might become a **Coronagrass** and indulge in some **Yob-dobbing** to the Police.



Things needn't be all zoom and doom however. Women working from home are spending far less on make-up and both sexes are wearing **Zoomwear** (formality above the waist and casual clothing below the desk). Men have grown fetching (in some cases) **Lockdown taches** and, relieved of social pressures to look presentable, have put on a few pounds, which, when we reach the ultimate relaxing of restrictions that is **Covexit**, will perhaps give new meaning to the term **Superspreader** and the phrase **Flattening the curve!** At home many isolating **Covedwellers** have taken the chance for some DIY **Ronavation** during their enforced **Homecations**. And, of course, babies are still being born, though they will inevitably be seen as **Generation C** or **Coronials**. There are also many good souls going about **Caremongering** – spreading kindness and love to help the lonely, anxious and vulnerable. God bless them.

I hope those who do venture out are not taking part in the **Spendemic** of splurging on unnecessary purchases just for the novelty of spending real money again, nor should they be falsely reassured by the presence of **Space Marshals** or the elaborate **Cleanliness Theatre** that goes on in public buildings to show us how safe we ought to feel cf. **Security Theatre** at airports whose highly visible but largely ineffective actions (like temperature checks) seek to reassure people without adding to their protection. And talking of air travel, when are we going to get **Airbridges** that seem any more robust than Hammersmith?

Still it will all be over one day, though I fear this part of the 21st Century will forever be divided into the epochs of **BC** and **AC**, and we may all be looking back with **Lockstalgia**, unless the **Twindemic** (Flu AND Covid) gets us first –that would be a real **Covid 22**. Meanwhile Good Luck to you and your **Quaranteam**, stay **Covid Secure**.



Geography in Rhyme

**The answers consist of: 5 lakes – 3,8,12,19,24;
10 mountains/ranges – 2,5,11,14,17,20,22,23,28,30;
10 islands – 1,6,9,10,15,18,21,25,27,29;
and 5 towns in the British Isles – 4,7,13,16,26**

1. Madagascar
2. Ben Lomond
3. Buttermere
4. Aberdeen
5. (Mount) Witney (highest mountain in contiguous USA)
6. Martha's Vineyard
7. Portrush
8. (Lake) Mead (largest man-made lake in USA)
9. Minorca
10. Bardsey (Island)
11. Carmel
12. Coniston
13. Beaumaris
14. Chilterns



15. Tenerife
16. Harrogate
17. Snowdon
18. Manhattan
19. Winnipeg
20. Matterhorn
21. Orkney
22. Pennines
23. Mendips
24. Garda
25. Cuba
26. Winchester
27. Tasmania
28. Mont Blanc
29. Barbados
30. Everest



**Dial-a-Prayer with the
Methodist Church in Britain**

Listen to a prayer:

0808 281 2514

Listen to news:

0808 281 2478

Daily Hope from Lambeth Palace

0800 8048044

**Prayers, hymns and
reflections**

These calls are free - and might especially suit those without the internet. Please pass the numbers on to anyone who may benefit.



Croydon Talking Therapies

offers free NHS services and advice during times of stress and difficulties. Search for 'Croydon Talking Therapies' online or call **020 3228 4040**.

Age UK and Croydon Voluntary Action (CVA) have set up a telephone befriending service for all ages, where volunteers give company through regular chats on the phone.

020 8686 0066

07540 720 102



JIGSAW SWAP

There's a new jigsaw hire service in town!

Pay £1.50 to hire a jigsaw

Complete it! Clean it ! Return it to Fran Byard!

8405 3222 or email fran.byard@blueyonder.co.uk

Fran says to let her know when you are coming round to collect or return. Please note that Fran is currently working from home and please take this into consideration.

All proceeds to Hall Grange Amenity Fund

An update on Shirley Neighbourhood Care's services.

We have now settled in to a new routine for our clients:

Personal shopping – our volunteers are regularly making individual shopping trips for clients. If the client rings one morning, their shopping is delivered to their door the next day.

Telephone befriending – more than 40 of our clients are benefiting from a regular call from volunteer phone buddies.

Lunch club meal delivery service - each Friday. If we are called no later than Tuesday morning, a meal can be collected from Shirley Methodist or delivered by volunteers. The price is £4.50. The Lunch Club is restarting at Shirley Methodist on 1st October. Please call the Office by Tuesday midday to book a place, at £8.

More volunteers are needed. Could you help?

To contact *Shirley Neighbourhood Care* Tel 020 8662 9599

Email sncs@shirleyneighbourhoodcare.co.uk

Shirley Methodist Matters



During these difficult times we will be continuing to produce our church magazine. However we will continue to print very few copies. The magazine will be available at www.shirleymeth.org.uk. If you know someone who would like to read our magazine but does not have the internet - maybe you could print off a copy and post it ... or pop it through their door.

As always - we are grateful for your contributions.

Kate Marsden will be the next editor

Kate Marsden katemarsden747@gmail.com

Jenny Crook jenny.crook@blueyonder.co.uk

**The NOVEMBER magazine will be on the website on
Sunday 31st October Please send contributions
by Sunday 25th October**

Shirley Methodist Church **one of 'Churches Together in Shirley'**

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*

