

Shirley Methodist Matters



April 2020

Shirley Methodist Church

One of 'Churches Together in Shirley'

Eldon Ave, Shirley, CRO 8SD



www.shirleymeth.org

Praise and Worship in April



Although our ways of worshipping collectively have changed, thanks to the media we can still connect with God and others. Here are some listings which are available:

- + **Songs of Praise** - Sunday 1.15 pm BBC1
- + **Prayer for the day** - Mon-Sat 5.43 am BBC Radio 4
- + **Sunday Worship** - 8.10 am Radio 4
- + **Thought for the Day** – Mon – Sat 7.45 am BBC Radio 4
3 minute talks offering reflections from a faith perspective on topical issues
- + **Daily Service** – Mon-Fri 9.45 BBC Radio 4 Long Wave –
Christian Worship with a Bible reading, prayer and music
- + Revd Stephen Day, Croydon Circuit Superintendent, is live streaming **Morning Service on Sundays** at 10.30 am on YouTube. Here is a link to it:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjsqXYbmrBE9GD4hNOUVEjg?feature=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fchannel%2FUCjsqXYbmrBE9GD4hNOUVEjg%3Ffeature%3Dem-lsb-owner>

- + Revd Leslie Griffiths' Lent Bible study for 22nd March is also available on YouTube, through this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2QLTq9ClnXg&feature=youtu.be>

+ **Just launched - Shirley Methodist's new website!**
<https://www.shirleymeth.org.uk/> (and see page 13)

Front cover: Book sale stalwarts - Bennie, Alison and Steve

Living in new ways

Daffodils are blooming and swaying in the breeze – if you are able to get out into your garden, enjoy these signs of spring. Otherwise look out of windows and take pleasure in the nature you see. Open the window and hear the bird song.

Time to reflect – if you don't already keep a diary, perhaps now is the time. Early on in the day, your entry might help organise a structure for the day. During the evening you could write down at least three good things which happened in the day, and why they were meaningful.



Connect with friends - keep in touch by phone and email, or even by post. Letter writing is a lovely way to reach out to friends, especially some you may not have seen recently, and it's such a pleasure to receive one.

Try reading a poem every day, and maybe try to learn it. It's quite likely that as a child you were set poems to learn for school homework, so maybe revisit some of them.

There's time to catch up with tasks you've been putting off/had no time for ... up till now.

One sorting job might be to look out photos and other memorabilia for Shirley Methodist's 90th birthday in February, 2021!

Shirley Methodist Matters

Over the next few months we shall continue to produce this monthly church newsletter, albeit with some changes in the regular content. We are grateful to receive contributions; please send any items and suggestions to either
Kate Marsden katemarsden747@gmail.com or
Jenny Crook jenny.crook@blueyonder.co.uk

Our Circuit Superintendent, Stephen Day writes

Dear friends,

We find ourselves facing an unprecedented situation as the impact of the coronavirus pandemic deepens for all of us, and especially for those who are most vulnerable. We remain committed to caring for people in a time of considerable anxiety and uncertainty while also continuing as responsible members of our communities following guidance from the government.

The circuit leadership seeks to follow government advice and that from the Connexional Team. The latest guidance can be found on the new circuit website at the bottom of this page.

The Connexional Team has advised that all worship services and meetings for business and fellowship should be suspended. The circuit recommends this takes effect until Tuesday 14 April 2020, at which time we will review the situation in light of the available guidance.

We realise that the temporary cessation of worship services will have a considerable impact on our members and communities. We will seek to minimise the effect by live-streaming worship services each Sunday (see page 2).

We encourage the use of technology to enable group meetings to take place remotely. Hopefully, we can develop creative ways to keep in touch with one another and our neighbours to offer emotional, spiritual and

Circuit website <https://croydonmethodist.ukchurches.co/>

Connexional website <https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/coronavirus-guidance/>

District website <https://www.methodistlondon.org.uk/coronavirus>.

practical support while practising social distancing. We may need to adapt our means of social outreach, especially supporting the most vulnerable, while safeguarding the wellbeing of others and ourselves.

Churches may struggle financially during the next few months with no income from offerings during Sunday worship and with little, if any income from lettings. We encourage church members to consider making offerings electronically but also recognising

this may not be possible for some people due to financial uncertainty. We encourage churches which develop financial difficulties to contact the circuit treasurer.

We will provide further information and guidance as it becomes available. People are welcome to contact me about any area of concern about the present or future guidance.

I close with an offering from Revd Barbara Glasson, President of the Methodist Conference:

***Loving God,
If we are ill, strengthen us, if we are tired fortify our spirits,
If we are anxious
Help us to consider the lilies of the field and the birds of the air.
Help us not to stockpile treasures from supermarkets in the
barns of our larders!
Don't let fear cause us to overlook the needs of others more
vulnerable than ourselves.
Fix our eyes on your story and our hearts on your grace.
Help us always to hold fast to the good and see the good in others.
And remember there is just one world, one hope,
One everlasting love, with baskets of bread for everyone.
In Jesus we make our prayer, the one who suffered,
died and was raised to new life,
In whom we trust, these days and all days. Amen***



I hope we can add our "Amen!" to those words.
God bless, Steve

Family News

Elizabeth Smart writes:

There is much to pray about as I prepare the family news for the April magazine and for many of us we all have individual people or families who we are remembering. At this time of concern for others can we hold in our thoughts and prayers all our church family, Revd Choi and Lay Pastor Bennie and their families as we support each other in whichever way we can.

This week contact has been made by telephone to many of our church family when we have been able to speak to one another, share our worries and perhaps help with shopping and support that has been needed. There has been many wonderful reports of acts of kindness and it is heartening and encouraging to hear this. We live in such a fast moving environment and so it is good to know that at the heart of our communities and neighbourhoods there is loving care being offered to all who are in need of help.

The Pastoral In Touch Scheme at Shirley Methodist is one way in which we can support those whom we keep in touch with on a regular basis, I wonder if the Pastoral Links could now be in touch more often - say once or twice a week depending on the situation - just to offer support and reassure the person/s that you have on your pastoral list.

For many of our church family, now that the Sunday morning services cannot take place, it is now even more urgent that they should have the opportunity to have conversation or receive a reassuring email/text to know that we are holding them in our thoughts and prayers. I hope you will be able to be in touch at this very difficult time for many of our church family, especially those who are vulnerable and house-bound. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can help in any way should you need more information.

Easter Blessings to you all.



Easter Prayer

This prayer has been written by the Revd Michaela Youngson.

When everything was dark
and it seemed that the sun would never shine again,
your love broke through.



Your love was too strong,
too wide,
too deep
for death to hold.

The sparks cast by your love
dance and spread
and burst forth
with resurrection light.

Gracious God,
We praise you for the light of new life
made possible through Jesus.
We praise you for the light of new life
that shone on the first witnesses of resurrection
We praise you for the light of new life
that continues to shine in our hearts today.



We pray that the Easter light of life, hope and joy,
will live in us each day;
and that we will be bearers of that light
into the lives of others.
Amen.

Revd Choi writes:



In February, Sarah and I had quite a special trip to so-called 'the Holy Land', which was actually one of Sarah's birthday gifts. It was a different trip in many ways: a guided tour which I never experienced before, travelling with strangers all along the route. (It was a small group, just with two people, father and son).

Starting from Tel-Aviv, we visited so many places, such as Caesarea, Haifa, Akko, Golan Height, Jericho, Bethlehem, Jerusalem, and small towns in Galilee (Tiberius, Capernaum, Cana, Nazareth, Caesarea Philippi, etc.). Some of them were quite familiar to me, I mean, at least their names were, as they appear in the



The Judean desert

gospels, and I could relate them to the stories.

What struck me most was that when I walked around the hills and small paths I could sense more vividly the reason why Jesus told those stories in those particular places and why he had to go through that particular spot.



On the other hand, however, it was rather disappointing to see that most of the 'holy' places were covered with buildings (I mean, churches, rather big churches), religious icons, and traders, which didn't look that holy.

In Bethlehem, it was a shock to see the huge concrete wall which separated the land between Israel and Palestine.



What's interesting is, however, that they greet each other, saying 'shalom', which means 'peace'. What does it mean, then? Do they really mean it? Later I heard from two of the tour guides exactly the same comment, "It is a joke". And, they both also added, "the problem is religion". It may be true, but to me it sounded like saying 'the problem is their religion, not mine'. Later I heard from two of the tour guides exactly the same comment, "It is a joke". And, they both also added, "the problem is religion". It may be true, but to me it sounded like saying 'the problem is their religion, not mine'. This trip has made me think of more seriously all the issues around the world, religious, cultural, political, and historical

issues, and the people who have to live with all those issues. However, what seems clear to me is that Jesus still loves them and feeds them miraculously by sending the pilgrims and tourists of four religions from all over the world, although they may not be aware of it or want to acknowledge it.

This month, as we know, we come to the end of our Lent journey, with praying, fasting, and almsgiving, remembering the time when Jesus endured the temptations for forty days. So, I hope and pray that we may remember the people in the 'holy land', living in conflict, and that land may be truly recovered as 'holy' as Jesus wants it to be, as they live together in his love.

*Every blessing,
Rev. SC Choi.*

Please note that **MHA The Wilderness** has halted operations during this crisis. The de-mountable office is being taken away; the brand new volunteer hub in place already within the Wildernesses - ready to be kitted out as soon as possible. Linda and Marco are working from home. The volunteers hope to be back - ready to tackle all those tasks once again.

Remembering Margaret Robins

A service of Thanksgiving for Margaret Robins was held at Shirley Methodist on Tuesday, 3rd March. Margaret and Brian moved with their young family to Shirley in May, 1956. Brian immersed himself in life at St John's and Margaret joined Shirley Methodist.

In 1962 Brian was offered a research project at an American university for a year and the family went too. Margaret enjoyed the friendships and the mod-cons such as central heating in their temporary home. She was very sad to have to return to the UK, but was soon busy in running the home, her involvement in two churches(!) and supporting the family in all their activities. Although she was a trained teacher, Margaret went back to school as a welfare assistant at St John's Primary School for ten years in the 1970s. Around that time she became involved in the newly formed 'Neighbourly Care Scheme'. As the 'link' for Shirley

Methodist, Margaret spent hours matching volunteer drivers with clients needing lifts to appointments. An extra logistical task was arranging drivers for the late night Christmas shopping evening in Croydon – this was some years before late night shopping became the norm.

As a pastoral visitor, Margaret took on another role with dedication and commitment. She and Brian visited the housebound and those in hospital. You can imagine that when you saw her, Margaret's beaming smile would lift your spirits, along with the twinkle in her eye and a heart clearly full of love.



Margaret was similarly devoted to all creatures great and small. She supported animal charities, and more directly, quietly and unobtrusively, would 'rescue' a worm, a beetle or bee in the wrong place on the pavement!

At the end of 2012 Brian was hospitalized for two weeks, with a broken femur, which had an impact on Margaret which was not immediately obvious. A few years later it was confirmed that she was developing dementia. She and Brian moved into Hall Grange, continuing to be devoted to each other.

Margaret's eulogy ends with a tribute which sums up the person we knew and loved – "she radiated love to whomever she met. Her home was always filled with laughter and *everyone* was made welcome. Her warmth, kindness and love for others never waned; even when her condition meant she couldn't bring names to mind, she never lost her warm smile.

She dearly loved her family, her Lord, and her dear Brian. They shared the same values; they put each other before themselves; they lived their life according to their principles; and they were a fantastic team. May they rest in peace together."



Great Book Sale

March 7th

Kate Marsden writes:

For some years now at our biannual Book Sale I have been greeting people at the door, and once more I wondered - Will it be a success? Will there be a queue before we open? Will we sell lots of books? Will the 'usual suspects' be here? Will the weather be kind? Will we be exhausted by 3pm? Will we have enough helpers? Will the lunches be delicious? Will we make lots of money? Will there be lots left over?

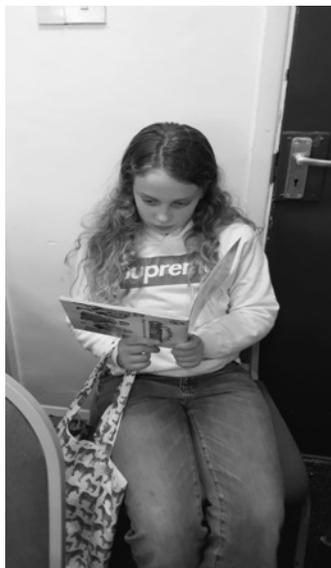
The answer was a RESOUNDING YES to all those questions! Around £7300 was banked. Around 500 people came to buy plus quite a few children. The weeks beforehand had been hard work – so many books were sorted into vegetable trays. Jonathan Baxter arranged with Sainsburys to let us have a seemingly endless supply. Paul Davies went back and forth to see his 'new best friends' at the tip with cardboard boxes,

battered books and general rubbish. A team of sorters filled boxes set out alphabetically around the Welcome area - seeking to place books in the right category (not always an easy task!) Where to place 'Gulliver's Travels' – in literature or fiction? Is Harry Potter for children or teenagers? Jeremy Clarkson's books went from biography to transport to TV to humour to and finally as there were so many, he had two boxes to himself! Lindsey MacFarlane must thanked for liaising with The World of Books and Downsview to deal with our surplus stock.



Toby -totally absorbed!

Thanks are due to so many people who helped – Steve Hunt and his team of organisers, the leaflet deliverers, the sorters, the setters-up, the catering team, the checkout team, the room stewards, the DVD, CD and vinyl aficionados, the money-counters, the health & safety ‘rep’ who wrote the risk assessment, and the clearers-away. But of course, the success of the whole event was only made possible by people in Shirley who donated books and bought them!



Charlotte -lost in a book!

And Kate thanks more people for the new
Shirley Methodist website

A huge debt of gratitude goes to Jemma Smith & her partner Ben Hines who had the wonderful idea of getting the new website off the ground. It was a pleasure meeting them a couple of months ago to sort out the details. They have done so much ! Wouldn't George & Gwen Cole have been proud?

Huge thanks too to Steve Hunt who provided the technical support to link the new web content to the existing shirleymeth site . Thanks Poppy IT Services

And to Graham who helped me update the whole site in view of the latest Coronavirus situation. He also helped me upload it all. Hopefully I will be able to ‘fly free’ and do everything from now on unaided.

Massive thanks to you, Kate for pulling together your team and your perseverance and hard work over many months!

... Just Married!

You've been waiting, waiting, waiting ... for the Big Day to arrive. The wedding that you've dreamed of is just a few weeks away - then the world turns upside by a virus.

Firstly, you are told that you may not share the food you have carefully prepared for after the service and then by the week of the wedding your large guest list is reduced to just five people!

So, what do you do? You do what you have always done, and keep a clear head. You remember what is important to you and continue to celebrate the love that you share and that God has blessed you with. It is not for nothing that you have spent your whole life playing with technology and quietly serving your

church by running the PA system for weekly worship. So, with everyone confined to their homes you arrange to Live Stream your special moment so that seventy households can share in that moment too, and clap and cheer from afar, and look forward to the Wedding Breakfast in a year's time!

Congratulations Paul and Elaine. It was a surreal moment to hear the Vicar ask an almost empty church "Does anyone know of any reason why these two should not marry?" But the doors were open and the silence from outside continued down the streets for miles and miles. May God richly bless you as you begin your new life together, and bless us all as we learn how to love in new and different ways.

Lindsey Macfarlane



Spreadin'

No-one can escape the news about coronavirus but amid the gloom some people are doing their best to keep us all entertained. Did you see the rapper PSYCHS on BBC local news recently ? The following news item comes from the BBC website. But how many of you know that PSYCHS is our own Rashid who, with his brother Frederick and his parents Samuel and Rashida were received into membership at Shirley Methodist on March 15th.

'South London rapper Psychs is raising awareness about the virus with his latest track - *Spreadin'*. He says he made the drill track because the virus is "what everyone is talking about at the moment. I knew that if I'd done this in the right way, it would grab people's attention... especially my generation."

The 18-year-old's lyrics talk about changes to his daily life like not being able to watch football - but he's also spreading the message that people should avoid hugging and shaking hands, for now at least. Psychs and his friends use their feet instead! The rapper added: "One of the hardest things I'm anticipating is just not being able to see my friends if we do go into lockdown."

As well as making music, Psychs is also studying for a BTEC in performing arts, sport and business. Like all students, his school is now closed because of the coronavirus - although he's already done his exams. "But I guess I'm in the same predicament if exam boards close - maybe I'll get a predicted grade? I just don't know."

In one part of the song he talks about the virus starting in China but says he didn't mean anything negative by it. "I was just making a joke - saying, 'Oh, well everything's made in China anyway', because most of the things we have are produced in China." Psychs' track has been viewed nearly 200,000 times on YouTube over the last week and he says it took him around a day to write.

"I think it's the fastest project I've ever put out in my whole time of doing music, to be honest." And he's really happy with the reaction it's been getting - he was "gassed" when it was played on BBC Radio 1Xtra.

The rapper told Radio 1 Newsbeat now is the time for everyone to come together and that "as a nation, together - we'll overcome it."

<https://www.nme.com/news/music/psychs-shares-coronavirus-advice-track-spreadin-2632743>

Prayers for these times

The prayers on this page and the next are taken from the morning service streamed by Revd Stephen Day on 22nd March

I love you, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer, my God, my rock in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised.

(Psalm 18:1-3)

Holy God, you are the Rock upon which we build our lives. You are the Rock to which we cling amid the changes taking place around us which threaten all that helps us to feel secure. Holy God, we praise you that we find shelter and refuge as we cling to you.

Holy God, we cling to you because we have experienced the gift of your everlasting love. It is this experience of your love and faithfulness in the past which gives us hope for today, and the coming days. Holy God, we praise you for your goodness to us in the past which gives us hope today.

Holy God, your Son Jesus Christ taught us that those who listen to your words and act upon them are like the wise person who built their house on rock. Even though the storm blew, the house remained standing. Jesus Christ, we praise you for your words of wisdom that, through the power of your Holy Spirit, may guide, strengthen and comfort us in these days, helping us to love you with all of our heart, mind, soul and strength as well as our neighbours as ourselves.

We offer this prayer in and through the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prayers for others

Let us pray for all those suffering with COVID-19 and those putting themselves at risk caring for them...

Let us pray for families mourning those who have passed from this earthly life, and those who may not be able to pay their last respects to those who have died because of social distancing...

Let us pray for businesses and organisations which find themselves swamped by a demand for their services as well as businesses forced to close and others open but struggling to remain solvent...

Let us pray for the government and scientific advisers as they make difficult decisions to safeguard the well being of us all as well as researchers seeking treatment for coronavirus...

Let us pray for those who are anxious, fearful and lonely, remembering those who feel isolated from the people they love...

Let us pray for ourselves and those we know and love who need our prayers today...

We offer our prayers in and through the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.



Prayer Chain

Please contact us if you would like some one - or yourself - to be prayed for by members of our Prayer Chain.

Names are only taken with the consent concerned and stay on the chain for a week.

Margaret King 8777 3770 or Elizabeth Smart 8681 0057

BENNIE'S



Do I, or Don't I? Have I, or Haven't I?

Not a particularly stimulating topic is it? What am I supposed to be doing and have I?

There are no prizes for getting the answer correct to the two questions. Of course, it has everything to do with 'isolation' and whether we're doing it or not. From the scenes on TV it would appear that were a lot, and I mean A LOT, of people who weren't being obedient to the request to staying at home and not going out unless it were absolutely necessary. As a result, the government is threatening severe restrictions and measures to curtail 'going out'.

So, if we can't go out what can we do by 'staying in'? If you have access to the internet there are umpteen sites that have sprung up to tell you what you can do. What is the craziest site or idea that you've seen to date?

For me, it's bringing back onto morning TV a lady to show you what exercises to do, who was on morning TV several decades ago (yes! you read it correctly)! Being somewhat older now, she sits in her chair and gives ideas on exercises. I promised myself that from 'tomorrow' I will go and do a long walk every day. The problem so far, 'tomorrow never comes' because it's always today or even yesterday!



Our daughter posted on the family WhatsApp page a "30day Lego challenge" – with a new challenge, every day, to use all the Lego pieces that you have and to make something particular that is named in the challenge! Unfortunately, I don't have any Lego so that's no good for me.

Somebody else recommended answering a whole lot of questions using only one word – you are only allowed to use words that begin with the first letter of your surname. Only trouble is you are not allowed to Google your answers. Not much fun in that if you can't use Google. Another friend posted how he went to sleep on his bed and challenged his children to draw a picture of him sleeping without waking him up. Hmm - that sounds good! What do you do if you don't have young children living with you?

So, here's what I'm going to be doing over the next few weeks. I'm going to use the talents and equipment I have to record messages that I will post on Facebook and YouTube as a means of encouragement and challenge. I also thought of doing some 'telephone chats' with you, the members of Shirley Methodist Church, to see how you're coping with 'isolation' and to see what ideas you may have to overcome boredom and the resulting 'cabin fever' of being inside too long!



You can also get involved by calling one another on the phone, just to catch up with each other; see if there is a need which you could help fulfil; even pray with each other – whatever you can think of doing to make someone else's day brighter, if you do it, your day will be brighter too!

***'Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone, especially to our Christian brothers and sisters.'* (Galatians 6 vs 10 – NLT)**

Enjoy and endure with gratitude your isolation.
Every blessing,

Bennie Harms – Lay Pastor

Layworker's Listening

It does not seem that only last month I reported on a Circuit social media training event and now almost our whole lives appear embedded in virtual communication. The world has been transformed and we are challenged to live in a new way. So how do we love when all our usual expressions are prevented and our usual life as a community has stopped? Let's keep calm and listen.



It has been difficult to listen to huge amounts of rapidly changing information in the news, but when we do we have begun to understand the reasons for the changes and then work out how we should act. All in all, what we know to be good and true does not need to stop, it just needs to be done in different ways.

Routine is good for us so I encourage you to keep up with your usual routine of life. If you are a leader, perhaps you could

spend the time, when you are usually with your group, communicating with the children, young people and leaders to support each other, and share ideas for resources to nourish each other's hearts and minds.

The Methodist Church guidelines are that online communication with under 18s is in the form of group communication using an organisational account, not a personal one. If you need help with this, please let me know. It is good to have at least two leaders as part of the group's administration, just for face to face work. Parents should be aware and have given their consent.

Information should relate to resources for activities rather than relationship building. All communications should be between 9 am and 5 pm. More information is available from:

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-work/children-youth-family-ministry/the-well-learning-hub-equipping-and-supporting-workers/resources-from-the-well-to-download/policy-and-practical-help/social-media-guidelines/>

We will all continue to go through the ups and the downs of life and there is understandable fear and disorientation added to the usual mix at the moment. For us to know that we continue to love and support each other seems even more important than ever at this time. Let's keep listening to each other regularly. This could be best done by a phone call with a parent's knowledge or writing letters even! There are possibilities available to us, and as we work a way forward they will become familiar territory rather than the unusual landscape in which we currently find ourselves.

All in all there is an opportunity here for us to listen to our changing world and to our never changing God.

Jeremiah 29:12-13 says:
"Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."

I have added a simple prayer diary on the next page to help us maintain a routine that helps us to listen.

Keep calm and carry on with God,

Lindsey Macfarlane

Croydon Circuit Youth Development & Safeguarding Officer
Lindsey@croydonmeth.org
020 8653 2424

More online information via
www.croydonmeth.org
Facebook: Lindsey Croydon Meth

Future events

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.

Friday 8th & 10th May – VE Day Celebrations, Fairfield Halls & Croydon Minster – postponed

Lindsey's Prayer Diary

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

on **Tuesday** for **Families** especially messy churches
and AM:PM– Tuesday 21st April, 19th May

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**
especially Messy Easter – Saturday 11th April

on **Sunday** for **All Ages and Community** especially Café
Worship – Sunday 26th, April, 24th May, 5pm online at Facebook

The **Methodist** Church

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/>

The Methodist Church website has some useful resources, including 'Worship from home service sheet', a printable version of a Sunday service for every Sunday. There are also several services which can be live streamed each Sunday through a computer.

The website has lots of other resources which may be of help to you and others in the current situation.

During the pandemic **ROOTS** is offering **free** resources to use at home every week on the ROOTS website.

See www.rootsontheweb.com/

“When this ends - AND IT WILL-
every football match will sell out,
every restaurant will have a two hour wait,
every kid will be GLAD to be in school,
everyone will love their job,
The £ will sky rocket,
pubs will be rammed,
pews will be full,
gigs will be plentiful
and we’ll kiss, embrace and shake hands.

That’s gonna be a good day

Hang in there, World.”



These words of wisdom were spotted on Facebook

Maureen Hunt celebrated her 90th birthday
in a way she never dreamed of!
With a ZOOM video chat with her family!



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*

