

CONNEXION



*“And did those feet in ancient time
walk upon England’s mountains green?”*

**The magazine of
Christ Church Methodist, Addiscombe
JULY/AUGUST 2021**

***Minister: Revd Soon Cheol Choi 020 8654 5481
114 Lower Addiscombe Road, Croydon CRO 6AD**

www.christchurchmeth.org.uk

*Part of the Croydon Methodist Circuit and a member of
Churches Together in Addiscombe*

** on sabbatical until late July 2021*

WORSHIP

JULY		
Sunday 11.00am	4	All Age Worship on Zoom/in Church – Mrs Alberta Larkai-Doherty
Sunday 11.00am	11	ACTION FOR CHILDREN SUNDAY All Age Worship on Zoom/in Church – Revd Pam Clews
Sunday 11.00am 5.00pm	18	All Age Worship on Zoom/ in Church - Mrs Caryl Rapps Café Worship
Sunday 11.00am	25	WOVEN SUNDAY Holy Communion on Zoom/in Church – Revd Choi

AUGUST		
Sunday 11.00am	1	All Age Worship on Zoom/in Church – Mrs Ruby Koomson
Sunday 11.00am	8	All Age Worship on Zoom/in Church – Revd Choi
Sunday 11.00am	15	All Age Worship on Zoom/ in Church - Mrs Mary Salter
Sunday 11.00am	22	Holy Communion on Zoom/in Church – Revd Choi
Sunday 11.00am	29	HOLIDAY CLUB ON SUNDAY (see page 8) All Age Worship on Zoom/ in Church - Mrs Pauline Little

Christ Church worship takes place at 11.00am on Sundays in Church or via Zoom – the links are on the email sending out the weekly Keeping in Touch sheet. Don't forget you can listen to previous services via the Christ Church website and also view 'special' services:

<https://www.christchurchmeth.org.uk/worshi/sunday-worship>

Christ Church Sunday worship is recorded and CDs are available. If you would like to receive a weekly CD, please contact Adrian Pickett.

Cafe Worship on 18 July at 5.00pm – the Zoom link will be sent out by email by Wendy Thompson. If you don't receive it, please contact her.

Also on Sunday mornings, **Early prayers** are held weekly at 9.00am for half an hour on Zoom. If you would like to join in, please contact Mary Salter.

“The Times They Are A-Changin”

... for us by fifteen minutes. The Steering Group has agreed that our Sunday worship can move to the earlier start time of **11.00am**. That would be with “gathering time” on ‘zoom’ from **10.45am**. And this would be starting in July. We hope the church family will appreciate the earlier start.

At the time of editing Connexion, **this earlier time is subject to Junior Church being content**. (They have been meeting via ‘zoom’ from 10.30am.) And thanks Bob Dylan for the quote.

Church Stewards

Welcome to the July/August edition. We hope you enjoy reading the magazine. Any suggestions to email bingham144@hotmail.com, *Please note that any opinions expressed in articles are personal to the authors and may not be endorsed by the editors.*

COPY DEADLINE FOR SEPTEMBER by **Sunday 22 August** either by email to ccmamagazine@hotmail.com. Requests for email version to above address. Thanks as always to all contributors.

Editorial team

CONTENTS

Circuit Minister’s letter	5
Woven Weekend	7
Church family news / Holiday Club Sunday	8
Cafe Worship	9
Questions	10
Croydon Trading Standards Alert	11
Wood gnomes at work	12
A midsummer in Denmark	14
Picnic wordsearch	16
The next time you feel that God can’t use you	17
Together South’s work with refugees and non-EU migrants	18
The U in Jesus	20
The effect of the pandemic on women who sell sex/are exploited	21
The cracked pot	22
All We Can signs up to Crack the Crises	23

Croydon Food Bank – Next Collection

There will be an opportunity to make a donation to the Food Bank on both Saturdays 10 July and 14 August between 10.30am and 12 noon at Christ Church.

Thank you, Sue

CIRCUIT MINISTER'S LETTER

“So, Grandpa, what did you do during the great Lockdown of 2020 and 2021?”

Just like we could ask our grandparents and great grandparents what they did during the two World Wars, so our grandchildren and great grandchildren are going to be able to ask - ***So, Grandpa, what did you do during the great Lockdown of 2020 and 2021?*** Were you obedient and stayed indoors or at home when you were told to, or were you disobedient and drove past castles and other things? Did you wear a mask and not sing in church? Or were you something of a rebel?

Hopefully, when you read this article your lockdown ordeal will be a thing of the past. You, and others around you, will be trying to formulate what ‘normal’ will become as the days unfold but it will be wonderful! Of course, I’m writing this ‘with the future in mind’ hoping and praying that we will be living the dream of no more lockdown etc.

Continuing with the future in mind, I’m reminded of a verse from Romans chapter 12, where Paul writes - ***“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind...”*** (Romans 12:2) I would like to encourage you to do three things as you begin to unravel what the ‘new normal’ will become. They are – **“Reframe, Rethink and Re-story”**.

Reframe. Many different things happened to us during lockdown. Our movements were restricted as was our social interaction. For some it wasn’t a ‘big deal’. For others it was life changing. So, in looking back on it all – both the good and the bad – perhaps now would be a real life-changing moment as we ‘reframe’. Take everything that happened; how it affected you or impacted your life and possibly the lives of your family and try to get another perspective on it all. Like putting a new frame on an old picture. As you begin to re-frame your thoughts and

perceptions of what this 'new normal' will be like, give God a free hand in helping you to see it through His eyes. Allow yourself the freedom of seeing / understanding who you are and can be in Him and how He can continue to make this happen.

This will give you the opportunity to '**Rethink**' - to see the transformation that has taken place in your life allowing you to set fresh goals, taking hold of new opportunities and trying to see how He, the Holy Spirit, will help you to achieve this. In Romans 12 verse 2, Paul speaks of being transformed by the renewing of your mind. JB Phillips translates that verse as '**don't let the world squeeze you into its mould**'. Give yourself that freedom to allow God to set you free from the way the world, or others, would expect you to be. An opportunity to be that 'new creation in Him' that comes from believing and trusting in Jesus Christ.

This leads us to the **Re-story** process. Constructing new meaning from old narratives, to write the story of our lives differently from now on. Not always an easy thing to do, but better than remaining stuck in the old ways. In 2010, several things happened in my life that changed me and set me on a new path. I suffered a breakdown which ultimately led to a breakthrough for me. I tried to take my own life and ended up in a clinic for 6 weeks. Hours of counselling and lectures on a whole range of topics helped me to gradually understand what brought me that place and how I was to re-story my life. Bad perceptions that were 'learned' in the first place had to be 're-learned' as I went through the process, allowing me to "Reframe, Rethink and Re-Story" my life, bringing about an experiential transformation of thinking, perception and living.

Being in the clinic was like being in 'lockdown'. The euphoria of being 'released' (as it were) soon changed as the reality of my situation sunk in. The pain and hurt for my family, the loss of job, career and living (not only for me but for my wife too as she stood by my side) was devastating and it threatened to overwhelm and destroy me. But we

had some very close friends who ‘stuck closer than a brother / sister’ and who helped us through those times.

On Christmas Day, 2010, we landed at Heathrow Airport in freezing conditions without much to our names, but God is faithful, He will not let you be tried, tempted, or tested, beyond what you can endure and will give you the strength to stand up under it. (1 Cor 10:13) The ‘Reframing, Rethinking and Re-storying’ process was still in its infant stages. Today, thanks be to God, we are witnesses that this transformation can take place by the renewing of our minds.

What will you do? Can these three things, “**Reframe, Rethink and Re-story**”, help you to create a new normal? I pray that it will.

God bless you.

Bennie Harms – Lay pastor, (Addington and Shirley Methodist Churches)

LONDON DISTRICT
of the
METHODIST CHURCH

INVITES YOU TO

Woven Weekend

A Gathering of the London District to hear and share God's Story, Your Story and Every Story

Keynote Session • Workshops • Sunday Services

Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th July 2021

ONLINE METHODIST CENTRAL HALL WESTMINSTER

For more information and to register:
methodistlondon.org.uk/wovenweekend
020 4526 3857

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

- PROF. ANTHONY REDDIE**
- PHOEBE PARKIN**
- REV'D DR. ELAINE HEATH**

WORKSHOP FACILITATORS

- Rev'd Tanya Matcain**
Exploring vocation in the context of multicultural society and the Church.
- Deacon Eunice Atwood**
Church at the Margins in a Global Context.
- Mark Williamson**
Doing Church with Missions: Evangelism & Discipleship
- All Johnson**
A Hybrid Church: Being Church in the changing times.
- Jasmine Yelsoh**
Being courageous at sharing God's story and your story.
- Matthew Forsyth**
What are your next steps?

@LondonMethodist

Woven
Sustaining the Holy Spirit

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

As the holiday season is well and truly upon us, all good wishes to those who manage to get away or decide to spend their time at home.

We pray that the date of 19 July for the raising of all restrictions can be achieved and that our worship and fellowship can continue in a more flexible way that will encourage and welcome all members of our congregation.

Forthcoming birthdays and anniversaries will be announced in the Keeping in Touch sheet. However, it would be remiss not to mention that Pam and Tony Clews celebrated their Golden Wedding on 8 June, unbelievable as it may seem, for which many congratulations.

Please phone/send any family news to Fiona Assaly: 020 8654 1296 or bingham144@hotmail.com. We want to make sure our prayers are offered for all our friends. Do remember the prayer chain – contact me if you would like to include anyone on the prayer chain but remember to ask their (or a family member's) permission first.

Holiday Club Sunday 29th August : Date for your diary

Unfortunately we're not able to run a summer holiday club at Christ Church this year, but we are hoping to have a "Holiday Club on Sunday" event on Sunday August 29th. Plans are in the early stages and depend on any restrictions which are in place at the time, but we hope to have interactive holiday club style worship in person and on zoom, followed by a barbecue or picnic .

I hear Bert and Lucy are excited already.
If you'd like to be involved let me know.

Gill H



*See weekly Keeping in Touch sheet
for updates or email me.*

*The Zoom link will be on the
Keeping in Touch sheet*

We will meet on
SUNDAY 18 JULY 2021
at 5pm on Zoom

All are welcome for an informal hour of worship and fellowship

We are not sure when we can return to Cafe Worship on church premises and will update you when the decision has been made.

Wendy Thompson



Happy Holiday!

'Questions'



July 19 - is our future less restrictive?,
Did Boris at G7, give us a chance just to live?
Will only the transport we use demand a mask?,
Or will we be set, yet another task?

Whatever the outcome,
However we fare,
Let's hope in '22
We'll have our fair share.

Will July and August, bring singing to church?,
Or will we stay muted, and left in the lurch?,
Will we sit together,? shoulder to hip,
Just like we used to,during the sermon, we kip !

And after the service, drink 'Coffee or tea',
Sitting together, you and me?,
Finding out how affected we were,
By all that has happened,
How on Earth did we fare?

by Bob Horne
18/06/2021

CROYDON TRADING STANDARDS COMMUNITY ALERT

Bogus Community Nurses

We have been made aware of two incidents in the Croydon area where service users have been targeted by **a man and woman posing as community nurses.**

The woman has appeared first and distracted the victims, the man has then pushed his way into the home. This kind of offence usually leads to items being stolen, so please keep items such as wallets, purses and handbags hidden and out of sight.

If you are expecting your Community Nurse and someone you do not know appears at the door, please ask for ID and tell them you need time to check it.

If you are unsure, you can call **020 8274 6195**, and explain that you need to check the identification of the person who is at your door.

If possible, whenever someone knocks at your door, please use a chain, spy hole or window to check the identity of the person before you fully open your door.

Anyone who is genuine will not mind being asked, will happily show ID and wait whilst you check. If they do not show you or refuse, **DO NOT OPEN YOUR DOOR!**

Please keep an eye out for vulnerable neighbours, friends and family members.

The incidents have been reported to the police and are being investigated.

If you are a ¹¹victim of this type of

Wizards have built this wigwam
Private and secret, yet open to all
Come and see what we've left.

Our welcome,
Our magic, of sharing of
Secrets with you.

Here's an orange to make your mouth water
With pencils and places for
Pictures and personal papers.

There's a road to walk into our bower
And a place to breathe –
Wonder for all.

Colour pens to shape,
Show what you see, and pencils for words
That can float through the air.

This is a place to come to, to sit, speculate, share,
Taste and remember –
An occasion for stillness and silence.

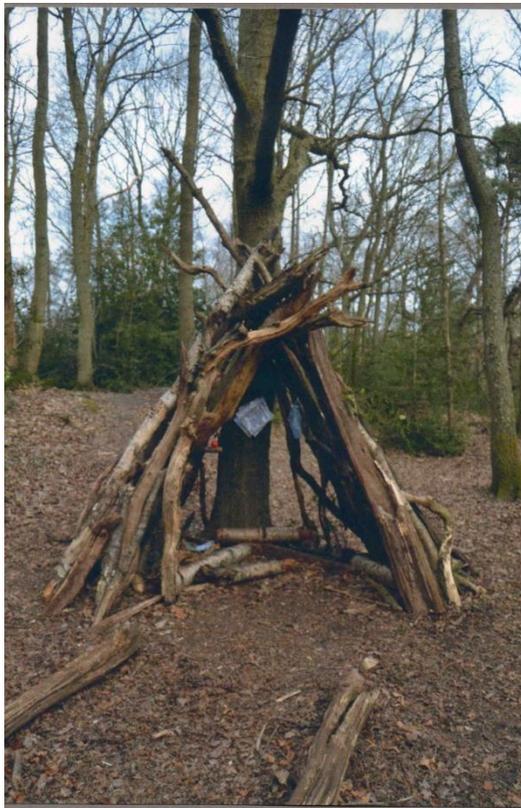
Squirrels will watch and wait for your leaving
But your dreams may stay here
In the peace of the whispering trees.

We leave what we've done for others and you
To join in our fun
And make more.

We're the out-reaching
Generous wood gnomes
Calling curious eyes
To discover.

Come see what we've done
What we've left
Just for you,
Eyes closed, Shush! Secretly dream.

Rex



Memories of a

Midsummer in Denmark



In 1987 we saw an advertisement for holidays staying in farms in Denmark. We booked one that looked good in North Jutland for two weeks in June. We were able to make our own travel arrangements so cycled to Liverpool Street, took the train on the Friday to Harwich, then the late afternoon ferry to Esbjerg.

We knew there was a bus to Aalborg which took bikes so we took that and then cycled the 15 miles to the farm. We met Maria and Kresten who had a small farm with a few cows and pigs. We arrived in time for dinner which we shared with the couple. Their children were adults but we met them several times. We were made very welcome and learned a few words of Danish although Maria and Kresten spoke some English.

We were surprised to find late spring flowers in bloom with summer flowers. Of course, with Denmark being so far north, the growing season is much shorter than ours. The terrain was beautiful – some small hills and hardly any traffic. We did find most villages had no eating places for lunch but we always found somewhere to eat. One day we went out separately. I saw the next village was called Manna. I thought that there must be food there but no; I found some in the next village – excellent. We both went there a couple of days later.

On midsummer day, Maria asked us to be back half an hour early as there was a special event. All the local neighbours arrived

together with Maria and Kresten's children, many on bikes. A bonfire was lit and massive amounts of food appeared, most of the guests bringing some. It did not get dark until about 11.00pm. There was singing of traditional folk songs and much laughter. We felt very welcome and privileged to be part of tradition.

Another day, we arrived back for dinner to find the table laid for about 20 people and one small table at the side. We had met the family at midsummer but this was different. This was a funeral wake. Again, we were made to feel so welcome that we did not feel intruders.

All the time we were there, we were as family, Carl even helping the last cow they planned to calve produce two youngsters.

The weather was in the 80's F every day, something we were surprised about so far north. A fantastic holiday – we returned two years later.

Sheila Szzvanowski



PICNIC WORDSEARCH

Can you find 14 words about picnics in this wordsearch?
The words run, forwards, backwards and vertically and diagonally
but always in an unbroken straight line.

N	W	X	B	A	S	K	E	T
Q	S	E	O	T	A	M	O	T
E	W	K	Q	N	I	F	R	I
S	N	A	T	U	L	U	E	D
E	R	C	L	A	I	D	R	C
E	H	S	S	S	A	C	O	F
H	A	K	A	N	E	O	H	S
C	M	I	O	L	L	L	L	E
N	P	M	T	B	A	L	O	U
R	E	I	O	N	O	D	T	C
L	R	X	C	R	I	S	P	S



The next time you feel that God can't use you, just remember...

- Noah was a drunkard.
 - Abraham was too old.
 - Isaac was a daydreamer.
 - Jacob was a liar.
 - Leah was ugly.
 - Joseph was abused.
 - Moses had a stuttering problem.
 - Gideon was afraid.
 - Samson had long hair and was a womanizer.
 - Rahab was a prostitute.
 - Jeremiah and Timothy were too young.
 - David had an affair and was a murderer.
 - Elijah was suicidal.
 - Isaiah preached naked.
 - Jonah ran from God.
 - Job went bankrupt.
 - John the Baptist ate insects.
 - Peter denied Christ.
 - The disciples fell asleep while praying.
 - Martha worried about everything.
 - Zaccheus was too small.
 - Paul was too religious.
 - Timothy had an ulcer.
- AND ...
- Lazarus was dead!



Nobody's
perfect!

No more excuses now. God can use you to your full potential. Besides, you aren't the message; you are just the messenger.

TOGETHER

South

TOGETHER SOUTH WORKS WITH REFUGEES AND NON-EU MIGRANTS LIVING IN SOUTH LONDON TO HELP THEM SETTLE INTO THE UK.

Sound interesting? Then get involved in our free weekly sessions today! Check out our timetable below.

TUES

Employment

10:30

11:30

Meet the Expert: Join these sessions for an insight on how professionals started in their roles.

WEDS

Conversational English

11:00

12:00

13:30

14:30

Group English Sessions (Higher Level): A chance for those with advanced level English to improve conversational English skills.

Group English Sessions (Beginner Level): For those just starting to learn English, you can develop your skills onto a conversational level.

THURS

Employment

10:30

11:30

How to: Gain advice on how you can improve your chances of finding employment or training.

FRI

Community

10:00

11:30

UK Cultural Insights: Get a better understanding of UK cultures by doing fun activities and meeting new people.

CONTACT US

For more information, contact Farid at farid.mall@groundwork.org.uk / 07943756073

18



This project is part funded by the EU Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund. Making management of migration flows more efficient across the European Union.



Free support sessions for refugees and migrants in South London

Together South is delivering free weekly sessions for refugees and non-EU migrants living in South London, to help settle into the UK. During these sessions you can:

- Improve your conversational English
- Receive employment and pastoral advice
- Gain insight into the UK cultures
- Connect with more people in your area
- If you're interested, or know someone who is, get in touch today.

For participants based in Greenwich, Bromley, Croydon and Sutton, contact Farid at farid.mall@groundwork.org.uk / 07943756073.

To learn more about the website and course timetable, check out the website: <https://www.groundwork.org.uk/projects/together/>

The U in Jesus

Before U was thought of or time had begun,
God had stuck U in the name of His Son.

And each time U pray, you'll see that it's true,
You can't spell out JesUs and not include U.

You're a pretty big part of His wonderful name,
For U, he was born; that's why He came.

And His great love for U is the reason He died,
It even takes U to spell crUcified.

Isn't it thrilling and splendidly grand,
He rose from the dead with U in His plan.

The stones split away, the gold trUmpet blew,
and this word resUrrection is spelled with a U.

When Jesus left Earth at His upward ascension,
He felt there was one thing He just had to mention.

"Go into the world and tell them it's true,
That I love them all - just like I love U.

So many great people are spelled with a U,
Don't they have the right to know JesUs too?

It all depends now on what U will do,
He'd like them to know, but it all starts with U.

Will U pass it on?
JesUs Loves U!!!

The impact of Covid-19 on women who sell sex or are sexually exploited

A new report
by Beyond the
Streets and the
Joint Public
Issues Team



The impact of Covid-19 on women who sell sex or are sexually exploited

Our research early in the pandemic indicated that women who sell sex or who are sexually exploited were likely to be a group that faced particular difficulties. Working alongside Beyond the Streets, a charity supporting women who sell sex or are sexually exploited, and their network of affiliated charities, we used focus groups, interviews and surveys to look at the experiences of the women they supported during the lockdown period.

Our report looks through the lens of poverty and the lens of trauma, and outlines some new policies that could make a difference in the lives of those affected.

Full report here:

<https://beyondthestreets.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/The-impact-of-Covid-19-on-women-who-sell-sex-or-are-sexually-exploited.pdf>

THE CRACKED POT

A water bearer in India had two large pots, each hung on the ends of a pole that he carried across his neck. One of the pots had a crack in it, while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water.

At the end of the long walk from the stream to the house, the cracked pot arrived only half full. For a full two years this went on daily, with the bearer delivering only one and a half pots full of water to his house.

Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments, perfect for which it was made. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection and miserable that it was able to accomplish only half of what it had been made to do.

After two years of what it perceived to be a bitter failure, it spoke to the water bearer one day by the stream. "I am ashamed of myself, and I want to apologize to you. I have been able to deliver only half my load because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your house. Because of my flaws, you have to do all of this work, and you don't get full value from your efforts," the pot said.

The bearer said to the pot, "Did you notice that there were flowers on your side of the path but not on the other pot's side? That's because I have always known about your flaw, and I planted flower seeds on your side of the path. Every day while we walk back, you've watered them. For two years, I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate the table. Without you being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace the house."



All We Can signs up to Crack the Crises



All We Can has recently signed up to **Crack the Crises** – a movement of over 70 organisations who are calling on the UK to take action on climate change, Covid-19, inequality and injustice.

As the UK hosts two major summits in 2021 – the G7 in June, and COP26 in November – the UK government has an opportunity to act as a forward-thinking global player. All We Can, along with other Crack the Crises member organisations, are asking the government to:

- Deal with the Covid-19 crisis, by tackling the virus and preventing future threats;
- Crack the poverty and injustice crisis, by redoubling efforts in this area – ensuring everyone, everywhere, is free, protected, and has access to healthy food, clean water, a safe home and decent education;
- Take urgent action to go further and faster on tackling the climate crisis, prioritising the needs of those worst impacted – often the world’s most vulnerable and marginalised communities who are the least responsible for climate change.

All We Can will also be sharing stories from its work with those most impacted by the climate crisis and ways for churches and individuals to get involved in the run up to COP26.

Visit allwecan.org.uk for more information.

Weekly Services and Meetings at Christ Church

(We hope that worship and meetings/groups will be back at Church soon)

09.15	Holy Communion (2 nd Sun)		
09.30	Time for quiet prayer (3 rd Sun)		
10.10	Songs for Worship (2 nd Sun)		
10.30	Morning Service (Parade 2 nd Sun)		
10.30	Holy Communion (4 th Sun)		
10.30	Junior Church / Youth Fellowship		
10.30	Crèche		
17.00	Cafe Worship (3 rd Sun)		

Monday

09.30	0-5 Stay & Play		
18.00	Monday Club (monthly, 3 rd Monday)		

Tuesday

19.00	Rangers (fortnightly)		
19.30	Emmaus Bible Study Group		

Wednesday

18.30	Guides		
-------	--------	--	--

Thursday

09.30	0-5 Stay & Play		
18.45	Brownies		

Minister	Revd Soon Cheol Choi	8654 5481
Church Stewards		
	Sunday morning services only →	
	Sunday morning services only →	
	Sunday morning services only →	
Room Bookings		