

Shirley Methodist Matters



July - August 2021
Shirley Methodist Church

One of 'Churches Together in Shirley'

Eldon Ave, Shirley, CRO 8SD

www.shirleymeth.org.uk



80p

Praise and Worship in July & August

ALL THESE SERVICES WILL BE HELD IN CHURCH, AT 10.30AM

SUN 4 JULY AVIS BLAIR

**SUN 11 JULY REVD JENNIFER POTTER HOLY COMMUNION
ACTION FOR CHILDREN SUNDAY**

SUN 18 JULY DOREEN RIDDEN

SUN 25 JULY REVD LESLIE GRIFFITHS



SUN 1 AUG REVD CHOI HOLY COMMUNION

SUN 8 AUG ANN ATKINS



SUN 15 AUG BENNIE HARMS

SUN 22 AUG REVD NADINE WILKINSON

**SUN 29 AUG REVD CHOI & BENNIE HARMS GENERAL CHURCH
MEETING**

You no longer need to register your intention to attend.

Please just come along as you used to do!

If you have not yet been back - please be assured that the chairs have been arranged with Covid safety in mind.

We shall be following all Government guidance

The services will also be available on Zoom.

You can watch on your screen or listen on your phone.

Get the link by emailing smchurchzoom@gmail.com

It will be the same link each week.

A recording will be put on the website by 7pm each Sunday.

Many thanks to all those people who are making these different forms of worship available to us.

Bennie Harms writes our Circuit Letter

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 Lock-down 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?

With the future in mind, I'm reminded of a verse from Romans 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 understanding or seeing 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 break-

down 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)

Liz Bebington
Christian Aid Coordinator
Churches Together in Shirley writes:

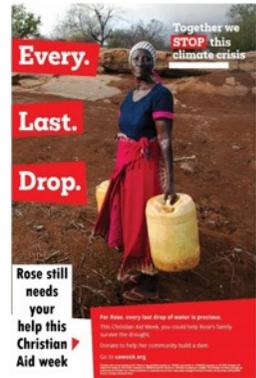
Greetings everyone...

I have tried to include everyone who helped with the Churches and delivery only Christian Aid collections this year, but please do pass this good news onto to your congregation.

I am delighted to say our Shirley community has been most generous and between us all, and including the money raised in the e envelope, we have sent £5,131.72.

To this will be added gift aid, and there may be some donations sent in directly too, so our overall total may be nearly £6,000.

Thank you everyone for your help in raising this money to help some of our poorest neighbours around the world who continue to suffer in so many ways.



Family News - July & August

Elizabeth Smart writes:

The Church family has been saddened to hear that Hilda Mitchell has died and we send our loving sympathy to John and his family. John and Hilda's Ministry at Shirley began in 1983 until their retirement in 1991. We remember Hilda with much fondness.

It has been wonderful to hear from some of our church family who now live quite a way away but who keep in touch via our website as well as phone calls and cards. Gwen Raymont has become a great grandmother for the first time, to Maddie Rose, born on 5 April. This means her daughter, Anna, who we remember as Brown Owl at Shirley some years ago, is now a grandma; we send our love and best wishes to all the family.

Frank and Jean Brooks have also welcomed a new grandchild – their second - Odin

Alberto, born on 4 June. Odin is their son Christopher's first grandchild. We send our love and prayers to all the family. We also send belated birthday greetings to Frank who was 96 on 23 June, and to Frank and Jean our congratulations and love on their 69th wedding anniversary on the 26 July.



It has been good to see some of our folks on the Zoom service on Sunday morning and to greet each other with a friendly wave: Dennis Blount, Jean Fairclough, John and Pat Pritchard have been on our screens several times and we send them our love and prayers. Technology is wonderful!

We remember those who have been unwell and we hold in our prayers Thelma Jackson, Sureya dos Santos and Marcos, Gwen Richardson, Anthony and Lesley Vigurs, Pam Harper, George Howard and Andrew Moore.



We pray for those who are mourning the loss of loved ones - we remember Andy and Christine Graham following the death of Andy's mother Pat -

for the families of Irene Owens, Elliot Abadoo, Alan Youngs and Lis Black and for Pastor Joan Morgan and the Beacon of Hope Fellowship.

We remember the Hall Grange family – residents, staff and their families – and give thanks for the loving care and support that is shared in this home.



**Sunday 25 July – afternoon – Circuit ‘leaving do’
for Lindsey Macfarlane and family
at Shirley Methodist**

Arrangements will depend on any continuing Covid restrictions. Please make a note of the date and look out for further details in the church notices.

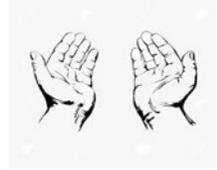


Prayer Chain

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 020 8777 3770 Elizabeth Smart
020 8777 2055 or via the ‘contact us’ form on
www.shirleymeth.org.uk**

Prayer Time



Please pray for those suffering with Covid and Long Covid, and for the volunteers helping with the Covid vaccination programme.

Give thanks for the delight we see in each new summer's day, for the warmth of the sun, the beauty of flowers.

Pray for all circuit staff and all those who work so hard in their own time to keep our churches clean and safe to worship in.

Pray for all the residents and staff at Hall Grange.

Pray for the peoples of Burkino Faso who have been subjected to attacks by militants.

Pray for religious communities in China, whose lives are being abused in many ways.

On **Saturday 10 July at 9am**. Do join us in the Lounge (we will be finished by 10am) for **Prayer Fellowship**. We meet with God through prayer and the silence of our hearts. **All are welcome.** *Brian Sherrell*



Alan Youngs had a sizeable home library – maybe 3,000 books – of which about one third were on the subject of Christianity, faith, preaching, prayer, church architecture, biographies of religious and moral figures etc.

Alan's faith books will be on display at Shirley Methodist in the **Welcome Area, on Saturday, 26 July, 11am-3pm**. You are most welcome to come and look and take away any books which interest you. There will be **no charge** for books, but **donations** can be made which will be shared between two of the charities Alan supported - **Christian Aid** and **Shirley Methodist**.

Love Stories

Leslie Griffiths writes:

About a month ago, I had the great privilege of officiating at the wedding of two outrageously lovely young people. Their love for each other had enabled them to face down some huge challenges and I found their desire “to give something back” to society heart-warming. Jeffrey, the groom, has his roots in Ghana and Jacinta’s family hail from Uganda. Two young Brits with so much to contribute towards the well-being of society at large. Here they are – the picture is worth a thousand words - it says it all.



This marriage reminded me of another which brought together two young people from different parts of Africa. The man was from Sierra Leone and the woman from Rwanda – they tied the conjugal knot at Wesley’s Chapel. Theirs was an amazing story which will live with me for ever.

Joseph had fled from Sierra Leone during the civil war that raged there in the 1990s. People who’d been neighbours for generations were setting fire to each other’s homes and killing each other’s children. No one was safe. Joseph was granted asylum in the United Kingdom and, once settled here, he decided that he wanted to put his recent experience to use and to serve the cause of peace. He was accepted for a United Nations task force and sent on one of its peace-keeping missions.

That’s where he met Justine, a fellow member of that same UN initiative. She’d experienced the genocide in Kigali

which saw well over half a million Tutsis slaughtered in the space of a few short weeks. She'd been out of town when all this was happening and when she eventually returned home she found devastation everywhere. Every single member of her family had been murdered, including her small baby boy. She fled to Goma in what was at that time still called Zaire and lived in a camp under the auspices of the United Nations. This led to her selection to the same peace-keeping mission which Joseph had joined.

The mission was to oversee a peace initiative in Kosovo – a reminder that some of the world's recent horror stories have happened in Europe too! They fell in love and eventually decided to (re)make their lives in London. As I stood in front of them at their wedding service, I just couldn't believe that two young people still in their 20s could have witnessed so much pain and suffering or been able to find each other in such circumstances.

And so their lives unfolded. Once peace had been established in Sierra Leone, they plucked up their courage and paid a visit to the land of Joseph's birth. After all, there were many members of his family still there who'd never met his new wife. They traced a rainbow through the rain of their tears and returned to London well satisfied.

That was Sierra Leone. A visit to Rwanda needed even greater courage. But they felt it had to be done and off they went. Their presence in Kigali aroused the curiosity of people who'd still not learned to trust strangers. As soon as they heard Justine's story, however, they welcomed her warmly and helped her track down those who might have known them before the tragedy struck – neighbours, friends, even family. And then, one of those moments that defies explanation, out of the blue, wait for it, - a child was brought before them. A ten-year-old boy. Justine's son. Honestly! She'd thought he was dead. Ten

years had passed. Yet here he was – alive and well.

What a story! Before too long, they brought the little boy for baptism. His name was Gaël. I told Joseph and Justine’s story to the congregation that morning. As I proclaimed, in the words of our service, the extent of God’s love for us, as I declared all that God had done for us, and as I concluded with the words “all this, dear Gaël, for you, before you could know anything of it,” I found myself quite overwhelmed and I swear

there wasn’t a dry eye in the house.

All this came flooding back to me as I stood in front of Jeffrey and Jacinta a few weeks ago. They too have had some battles to fight. That comes to us all I suspect. All I can do now, as I’ve done over the years for so many other couples, is to continue to hold them in my heart and ask the Almighty that they may know happiness in their lives and be a blessing to everyone they meet.

Free support sessions for refugees and migrants in South London



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

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/>

Singing Together Again

Jenny Crook writes:

Like amateur choirs everywhere, Shirley Singers fell silent in March 2020. We never managed the technicalities of singing on Zoom but kept in touch with a number of remote quizzes and catch up socials.

Earlier this year, when singing together indoors was still not allowed, we began to think about singing in the open air. One choir member offered a decent sized lawn at St George's Church in Monks Orchard. We fixed a date – Saturday 12 June, at 4-5pm, for a sing song, and with no audience present.

Between our last face to face choir practice at Shirley Parish Hall and the outdoor practice at St George's, the choir's music director had changed. Gill Hope, the new MD, had joined us on Zoom over the past months, and when it looked like we might be able to flex our vocal chords, Gill sent us recordings of vocal warm

ups, then scores and audio tracks (for 3-4 parts) of familiar songs to make up a short programme (*including Amazing Grace, Londonderry Air, Kum Ba Ya, Dona Nobis Pacem, Here Comes the Sun, and Sing.*)



Dorothy & Margaret ready to sing

On June 12 we were rusty but ready! We gathered on the allocated area of grass, seeking shade under the trees, some with fold up chairs, many with hats and bottles of water (though no toilets were available...!). We needed our accompanist to keep us on track and reasonably tuneful – and Hsin was there, playing a keyboard. Tau was on hand too, to keep the pages of music from blowing away!

If our new conductor wondered what she had taken on with Shirley Singers, she showed no signs of concern – quite the opposite; she encouraged and complimented us, though we know that there is work to do come September, when we

hope to be back at Parish Hall, if Covid restrictions allow, on Monday 6 September.

If you are interested in joining this friendly choir, talk to any members who are Shirley Methodists or contact Christine Heal at cmhsschoir@gmail.com



Irene Owens

Jean Beecher writes:

During my visits to Irene at Hall Grange, I learnt a lot about her amazing life. One of the incidents that made me smile occurred when she was a nanny to some very young children. The parents had returned after a time away and couldn't wait to embrace and greet their offspring. No such luck!
"Mummy and Daddy, will you please listen. Nanny is reading us a very exciting story," piped up one youngster. So they had to wait.

Special Artefacts and their Stories

Jenny Crook writes:

When I asked Kate Marsden recently for magazine article ideas, she recalled talking with Reg Young, about the altar cloth he'd given to Shirley Methodist in memory of his late wife, Edna. There are many beautiful objects at Shirley, given and made by church members and friends which enhance our worship. Here is a selection: thanks to everyone who directed me to ones I wasn't aware of.



Let's start in the **Worship area** with Reg's lovely **altar cloth** on the communion table. At each end of the cloth, you can see an identical design of a golden cross radiating beams of light - with fish-like forms beneath. Revd Terry Young, Reg's son, ordered the cloth from a company he knew; the motifs were specially designed.

On the communion table is a **wooden cross** given by former member, Ian Hornby in loving memory of his wife, Ann, who died in 2007 at the relatively young age of 60.



At the back of the photo on the right is a heavy wrought iron **flower stand**, a gift

from the late Vera Nunn.

There's another flower stand next to the grand piano - a plaque states- "*In Loving memory of Derek Funnell who was a very valued organist and member of this church 1930-2016*"

Do you know what a **hassock** is? Shirley has two of them and both are visible in first photo on the left. They're a sort of (firm) wedge, for kneeling or sitting, or even resting your feet (if you are sitting on a nearby chair!). Lucy Rogers created the design of Shirley poppies on the hassocks and a team of embroiderers which

included Glenna Fullick, Pat Pritchard, Jean Baxter and Eunice Mutongerwa who stitched them. Sadly both Lucy and Glenna have died within the past three years.

The poppy design is replicated on two **frontals** – you may not know the term but will have gazed at them many times when listening to Bible readings and sermons. The frontals feature in the two photos below.



Shirley was ahead of the curve with the current **pulpit**. There is a plaque on its inner side – *“Made from parts of the pulpit and other fittings from the church demolished in 1987. John Hunt, Cabinet Maker, 1998.”*

John Hunt (who is Maureen and David Hunt’s son and Steve’s brother) is a talented

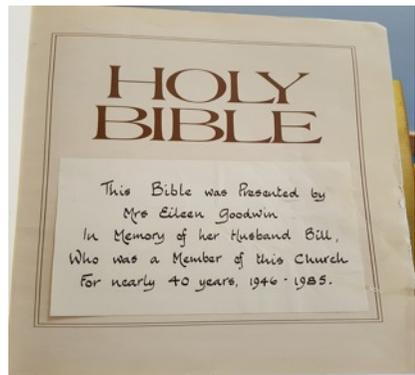
craftsman who’s made several more items of furniture for Shirley.

There are two identical chairs at the back of the dais which Lucy Rogers asked John



to make in memory of her husband, Ted. The plaque on one of the chairs says, *“I Will Make You Fishers Of Men”*, and on the other, *“In Memory Of The Reverend EDWARD ROGERS 1909 -1997”*, so the chairs are not quite identical after all!

An item regularly handled on Sunday mornings by readers is the **church bible**, a gift from the late Eileen Goodwin - inside the front cover the book plate reads:



You may know already Jean Beecher's distinctive italic calligraphy. To the right hand side corner of the Worship area is a wooden desk with a sloping glass top, given by the late Pearl Spittle in memory of her husband Colin. Inside is a **Book of Remembrance**, in which Jean lists the names of Shirley friends and members who have died.



We have a fine collection of **banners**, some of which are regularly circulated to match church festivals and seasons. The lovely Peace banner above the organ (see the front cover) was designed and made by Glenna Fullick, and moving out into the **Welcome Area** is the striking Wall of Witness banner which shows the handiwork of many former and current members.

Have you noticed the inscription on the wooden table on the left hand side – “24th Croydon Scout Group 1943-2002”? John Hunt made the table and both he and Steve were long standing supporters of the Group.



We have not been able to use our red hymn books during Covid restrictions, but you may remember the dedications inside to former church members. Kate Marsden initiated this practice 10 years ago and she's still doing it!



Outside the church buildings are more items of remembrance. On the grassy area to the left of the church driveway is a cherry tree dedicated in loving memory to Colin and Pearl Spittle by their daughter, Judith Roberts and other family members.



In last month's magazine there was mention of the paved 'Conversation Corner' in the No Cost Garden that Heather Tarling has given in memory of her parents, Margaret and Brian Robbins.



There's a brass collection plate with a wooden protective inset which Elizabeth and Bill Smart tracked down. It went into 'hiding' last year during the first lockdown. In the middle of the plate is inscribed, '*IN GRATEFUL AND AFFECTIONATE MEMORY OF KATHLEEN A. SMITH 1901-1964*'.

I have asked several Shirley Methodist seniors whether they knew Kathleen but none did. Can any reader enlighten us?

BEWARE - Bogus callers:

Croydon Safety Standards are aware of two incidents in the Croydon area where service users have been targeted by a man and a woman posing as community nurses - one distracts as the other enters the home to steal items.

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

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.

The Official Opening of MHA The Wilderness at Hall Grange

The date has been set - **Bank Holiday Monday 30 August** - is the big day! It will be a celebration of all that has been achieved since the start of the MHA Wilderness project in late 2018, funded thanks to generous grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund on behalf of the National Lottery and Garfield Weston Foundation, along with additional money from MHA.

There will be a number of attractions provided for those attending the opening but numbers will depend on any restrictions which still may be in place. More information will be available nearer the date - please look at the church notices and on the MHA Wilderness Facebook page.



MHA The Wilderness is looking forward to the delivery of a brand new bicycle rickshaw, once it has been adorned with our logos and colours. Residents and visitors can be carried round the garden in style and safety. Volunteers are needed, who will be trained in the safe use of the rickshaw!

MHA The Wilderness is also finally in a position to start recruiting new Volunteers for the Wilderness Weekend openings. The **Visitor Engagement Volunteers** will help MHA to make the Wilderness garden accessible to members of the public. We will give you all the training/briefing you need to undertake this role. If you like the sound of this, then please register your interest with the Wilderness team.

Please contact Marco Galli, Community Co-ordinator,
Tel: 07597135220 email: marco.galli@mha.org.uk if you would be able to help with this, or other tasks at The Wilderness.



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



**REVD DR. ELAINE
HEATH**

WORKSHOP FACILITATORS



Revd Tony Malcolm
Exploring vocation
in the context of
multicultural society
and the Church



**Deacon Eunice
Attwood**
Church at the Margins
in a Global Pandemic



Mark Williamson
Doing Church with
Millennials: Evangelism
& Discipleship



All Johnson
A Hybrid Church:
Being Church in the
changing times



Jasmine Yeboah
Being courageous at
sharing God's story and
your story



Matthew Forsyth
What are your next
steps?



@LondonMethodist

Woven
God's Story, Your Story, Every Story

Father's Days Past

We've just celebrated Father's Day in many places around the world. I think that this is mainly an American celebration. Well, so I thought – until I went to 'Wikipedia' and read what had been written there about Father's Day. It is celebrated in 111+ countries worldwide; honours fathers and fatherhood; varies by country as to when it is held; overall it is held annually and is related to *'Children's Day, Siblings Day, Mother's Day, Parent's Day and finally Grandparents Day.'*

Apparently, celebrating Fatherhood, has been a part of the tradition of Catholic countries in Europe since at least 1508 by being celebrated on 19 March as Saint Joseph's Day. In addition to Father's Day, International Men's Day is celebrated in many countries on 19 November in honour of both men and boys. If you're interested in the origins of

Father's Day, then go this website link and read all about it on Wikipedia.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Father%27s_Day

Recently I've looked around our church at Shirley and thought about the men that I've known in the church since I first started working there with Rev Jane Cassidy in September 2013. Some have passed on to be with their Heavenly Father and I am blessed to have known them. Unfortunately for me, I only got to know them in the 'evening of their lives' and not in their heydays! From all that I've heard, they really used to be involved in the church. My mind started to go through all the men that I've known in my life who have influenced me – especially those who have since passed onto their eternal reward. I thought of my own father, and his involvement in the church.

He was a disciplinarian of note. At about 10 or 11 years of age, he and his four brothers were placed in a Boys' Home where life was extremely hard. When I was growing up, he used to work nights as well as during the day to provide for us. He started as a storeman in a steel manufacturer and finished as the Branch Accountant – studying in his spare time to qualify for his job. My father's hands were never 'idle' for he believed 'the devil makes work for idle hands!' He and the other men from their church in Harare, Zimbabwe, built all the new pews in the church themselves. They designed the pews, bought the timber and other materials, and just got on with the job. Had he lived (and not been killed in a motor accident at the age of 62), he would have been 100 years old this year.

It is said that your image of God, as Father, is influenced by your image and / or experience of your earthly father. Years ago, I read a quote from the theologian and author A. W. Tozer that had a profound

influence on my life. He wrote, *"What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us. Why? Because how we see God determines how we relate to God, and how we relate to God determines everything else about us."* I saw God as a strict, hard-working person who expected the same of me and try as hard as I could, I never quite matched up to what I thought his expectations of me would be. However, when I became a father and learned how to love and care for my children, my relationship with God changed.

When I experienced extreme difficulties, my image of God changed even more. I learned and experienced him as a loving, caring, forgiving, never-condemning Father, someone who saw and accepted me as I was. As the images changed so did my relationship change. I began to understand what 'grace and love' meant and how my life could be filled with 'grace and love' for others too. Now I'm not perfect as He is, but that's all right, because he doesn't want perfect, he just

wants me – warts and all!

One thing is for certain, I know that not everybody who will read this article will be a father. That's a physical impossibility. You and I may differ on our individual understanding of the term 'father'. For some, it's not an endearing or loving term and has a lot of negative emotions attached. For others it simply builds anger, hurt and disappointment in their hearts. There's one thing I we can agree on and that's the 'love and grace' of God. Do yourself

a favour and think about that 'love and grace'. See it for what it can do and accomplish in your life. Think of how much God loves you and how God's grace can bring about as real change within your life. Then let God do it for you.

God bless you.

Bennie Harms – Lay Pastor



* * * * *

Shirley Neighbourhood Care is leaving.....

Shirley Neighbourhood Care is moving from the office at Shirley Methodist, which it has outgrown, to West Wickham and Shirley Baptist Church. SNC will be running **two Lunch Clubs** a week from the new base, on Mondays and Thursdays. Depending on the relaxation of restrictions, lunch clubs will start towards the end of July.

It's hoped to resume the **shopping bus service** from mid-July. As soon as is practical and safe, a calendar of **outings** will be organised for elderly clients, including visits to the Toby Carvery and other restaurants, garden centres, Coombe Gardens and more.

SNC will be continuing with the services that it has been running during the pandemic including **medical drives, deliveries of frozen meals** on a Friday for those who cannot return to lunch club, **personal shopping** for a few remaining struggling clients and telephone befriending.

Strong links will still be maintained with Shirley Methodist and, as SNC equipped the lounge with audio visual facilities the **film club** will still be run from there. Movie events will not resume though until social distancing is relaxed. Provisionally, movies will be shown on **Fridays 30 July, 20 August and 17 September**. Only top rated movies are shown for £6 plus refreshments! Call the SNC Office for movie titles – evening performances for anyone (no upper or lower age Limit!) – and book your seat in the Lounge.

In the meantime, SNC would be very grateful for help in the following ways:

- Please spread the word that SNC looking for more volunteers – maybe you have a friend who has recently retired and is looking for a fulfilling role - or if you would like to get involved with volunteering - such as -
- Car drivers - could you help with picking up the lunch on a Monday morning from Upper Norwood?
- Are you free to help with the Monday lunch club?
- Could you help deliver the frozen lunches on a Friday morning at 11am - 12 noon?
- Could you be a telephone befriender?
- Can you help with our office move? The date is dependent on moving telephone lines and broadband etc and is still to be advised.
- Do you know anyone who might lend us a van for a day?
- And finally, do you have any cardboard boxes for packing?

Best wishes,
Suzy Stoyel, SNC Coordinator



If you are able to help in any way at all, please get in touch:

Tel 020 8662 9599

Email sncs@shirleyneighbourhoodcare.co.uk

www.shirleyneighbourhoodcare.co.uk

In **Mozambique** the ratio of traditional healers to medical doctors is 50:1. In remote areas, when someone shows signs of leprosy, the healers are the first port of call. It is only when the traditional healers' herbal medicine has not worked that medical help may be sought. This means that valuable time is wasted which risks disabilities such as blindness developing.

Rosalina is a traditional healer who has been trained as a Leprosy Changemaker, funded by TLM's The Unconditional Appeal. She refers those she suspects may have leprosy to health workers, who can provide a simple course of antibiotics to cure the disease.



Photo taken by Mario Macilua

Rosalina herself was treated for leprosy and says, *"I am a healer but I do not say I can cure leprosy. If a healer says he can cure leprosy, don't trust him.... As a healer many people come to me to treat leprosy, but I refer them to the hospital."*

Heather Alford, a retired paediatric physiotherapist from Kenilworth, spotted a request for a physio on the TLM website when ordering Christmas cards in 2008. Following the sudden death of her husband, she felt that God was telling her He had things for her to do – she found the answer on the website.

Heather's first trip to **Anandaban Hospital in Nepal**, was in 2009, to work on the wards and the outpatients' department. It is the Leprosy Mission's flagship hospital, located on the outskirts of Kathmandu. Most of the staff spoke some English which helped as Heather did not speak Nepali.

She recalls meeting a young girl, Maya, who *“transformed before my eyes from a depressed and introverted young girl to a fun-loving person who is now a mum herself.”* Maya felt she had been given a second chance at life after operations on both her hands.



Heather went back to Anandaban in 2010, and again in 2015, after a devastating earthquake when over 9,000 died and homes were destroyed. Heather found the hospital staff responded amazingly to the many thousands needing urgent medical care and help to rebuild their lives. Heather asked her church friends to knit hats to help people keep warm during the cold Nepal winter, and she took over 300 hats to hand out to communities she visited.



Heather is now a volunteer speaker for TLM at church services and to groups such the WI and Rotary. She supports the Mission financially and in prayer. She says, *“In my wildest dreams, I would not have thought that I would be doing this in my retirement but it has changed my life. We have so much here that we take for granted. There are so many lives which are a constant struggle. God loves each one of us and it is a privilege to show some of that love in helping in whatever ways we can.”*

Anandaban Hospital was one of the first centres in Nepal to offer the Covid vaccine. The number of vaccines available is limited however due to cost. Whilst several thousand have received their first dose,

A prayer for Sunday 4 July - 'Thank you Day'

For each new morning with its light,
For rest and shelter of the night,
For health and food,
For love and friends,
For everything Thy goodness sends.

Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882)

Shirley Methodist Matters



The magazine can be read on line www.shirleymeth.org.uk as well as being available at church. Thank you to all our contributors. **Kate Marsden** will be the next editor katemarsden747@gmail.com jenny.crook@blueyonder.co.uk

The next magazine will be the September edition and will be published (and on the website) on **Sunday 29 August**.
Please send contributions to Kate by Sunday 22 August.

Shrublands Foodbank is in great need of car drivers. Volunteers to do Friday deliveries to people who cannot get to the centre themselves. Can you help? Or do you know someone who might be able to?
Email: info@shrublandstrust.org Tel: 020 3441 7887

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*

