

# Addington Methodist Magazine

June 2022



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# Hearing God's call

**Rev Soon  
Cheol Choi**

**As I am retiring this summer, this must be the last time for me to contribute to the magazine. And, I'd like to take this as an opportunity of sharing my journey so far since I've been in this country.**

In March 1996, I arrived at Heathrow Airport with my wife and two children. We had no one to welcome us, no friends or relatives in this country. However, we were greatly welcomed by a man who was standing with a big banner 'Welcome, Choi's family'. He was a taxi driver from Bristol, arranged by the English language centre. That surprising welcome was the beginning of our new life in this foreign land.

"What brought you to this country?" has been the most frequently asked question to me. My answer was, and still is, "God called me". This answer might be too pious to some, too trite to others, or a little curious to others. But, to me, it is a genuine answer.

In September 1995, I attended an event called 'The Early Morning Prayer Week'. I was asked to submit prayer requests, one of which was "Help me, Lord, to escape from my work and go abroad to study". I thought it was nonsense, although it did reveal my heart's desire. Then, when the service began, I was completely struck by the message to Abraham in Genesis 12, which was the theme of the event: "Leave your country and your people, and go to

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the land I will show you". Six months later, I left my country, giving up my job and the 13 years I'd spent as a fashion director. My only desire was to study Theology, without recognising it was part of the call. Wesley College, Bristol, accepted me to study, despite no background in theological education.

We hugely enjoyed our new life in a foreign land as if we were on holiday. But, this joyous time lasted only for 18 months. It ended when the Korean economy collapsed during the Asian financial crisis in 1997. It was a hard time as head of the family.

However, it was then that I came to realise God's call, and why he had called me to this country. It was Christmas time, but I was feeling depressed. Then, I was so amazed and deeply moved by the huge amount of cards and presents from the people in the local church. My entire family were absolutely bombarded by their priceless love and care. This unexpected love woke me

**“ This unexpected love woke me up to realise why God had called me to this land**

up to realise why God had called me to this land: that is, sharing His love with the people here.

Having heard what I was feeling, my local minister encouraged me

to start local preacher training and begin candidating for ministry later on. Candidating was not an easy process. At every stage of the process, I was stopped, and rejected several times. However, by the grace of God and the huge support from my church and the circuit, I got through the final interview which allowed me to enter preordination training. It took five years to complete the candidating process and training.

Then, I was stationed to the Skelmersdale circuit in the Liverpool District. Here, I was given the unreserved yet tough discipline for my formation in ministry. Now, I truly appreciate all the efforts made with extended meetings and extra sessions, for me to stand on my own two feet as a British Methodist Presbyterian. I am so grateful for their

# Choi & Sarah's Coffee Morning & Garage Sale

**We are holding a fundraiser event with a  
garage sale.**

**When : Saturday 25th June 10:00 – 12:30**

**Where : The manse, 38 Barnfield Avenue,  
Croydon, CR0 8SE**

**All are welcome !**



**All proceeds will go to support the Foodbank.**

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patience and tolerance as they had to wait until they could see the growth in my ministry.

This process of formation in ministry continued when I moved to the Sherborne and Yeovil circuit in the Southampton District, which was good in a sense that I could be guided in a rural ministry.

Then, I moved to the London District – the Kingston circuit and the Croydon circuit.

This helped open my eyes to the multicultural societies and issues around ethnic minorities.

Overall, 18 years of my ministry seem to be mostly occupied with my formation and learning. And I often felt that I was a caretaker minister. But, I think ‘take care’ is what the ministry is all about.

It has been a privilege to take care of the people around me, rejoicing with those who rejoice, mourning with those who mourn; to help them grow through preaching; to put the bread and wine into their open hands.

It has been an honour to serve the Lord as the British Methodist Presbyter, and I am so grateful for all of the enormous support for the most unlikely ministry candidate.

And I praise God that he has led me to endure all the ups and downs, challenges and sleepless nights. Thank you, Lord.

*Rev. SC Choi  
Circuit Minister*

**Diary dates**

Sat 4 June **10am to 12pm** Food Bank collection and coffee morning.  
**12pm to 3pm** Platinum Jubilee BBQ. Please sign-up by adding your name to the list in the reception area. Donations towards the cost would be much appreciated.

Tue 7 June & 21 June **2pm to 4pm** Stitch & Craft Club. Coffee and biscuits served for £1 a meeting. Contact Cathy Oldham: catherine.m.oldham@gmail.com.

Wed 8 June & 22 June **10.30am to 11.30am** Zoom Chat’offee. Enjoy fellowship and friendship with others in your home, with a book review and quiz. Contact: bennie-harms@croydonmeth.org.

Every Thursday **12.30pm** Lunch Club. Anyone looking for good company, and a hot meal and for £7.50 a week is welcome. Contact: jenharms2110@gmail.com.

Tue 14 June & 28 June **2pm to 4pm** Tuesday Club. Fun and fellowship with guest speakers, quizzes and other activities. Contact: Cathy Oldham or Jenny Harms.

Sat 18 June **9am to 11am** Prayer Breakfast and thank you to Rev Soon Cheol Choi.

Tue 21 June **3.30pm to 5pm** Messy Church.

# Mini May Fair raises £510

Addington Methodist Church's Mini May Fair on Saturday 7 May raised £510 towards the roof repairs.

Plants, bric-a-brac, books and toys in good condition were all on sale along with light refreshments such as bacon rolls and cream teas.

Another stand sold baked goods, including coconut and raspberry muffins and rock cakes.

The Mini May Fair also included a raffle of items, such as plants, jigsaw puzzles, books and candles.

Thanks to all those who



People enjoy some light refreshments at the Mini May Fair

helped and supported the Mini May Fair and Cathy Oldham for organising the event.

The Fair followed on

from the monthly food bank collection, which took in another good haul of tinned and packet goods for the Vine FoodBank.

## AMC to hold Gift Day to address financial issues

To address the current financial situation at Addington Methodist Church a Gift Day will be held on Saturday 18 June.

As revealed in last month's issue, Addington Methodist Church's

accounts were unable to pay the salary of Minister Rev Choi and Lay Pastor Bennie Harms in February.

Addington Methodist Church will provide breakfast from 9am to 12pm for all those who

would like to contribute.

An envelope, allowing those attending to select gift aid, will be provided.

For every £1 given with gift aid selected the church will get an additional 25p from HM Revenue & Customs.

## Scout trip funds needed

David and Joyce Fanshawe's granddaughter Evie has been selected to be part of the UK contingent for the next World Scout Jamboree in South Korea.

In Summer 2023, Evie will join more than 40,000 Scouts from all over the world who will gather for the 25th World Scout Jamboree.

The UK contingent fee is no more than £3,495 and Evie must raise her own funds to go to the Jamboree, which her Scout District will match to a certain amount.

Evie has put together a fundraising

quiz. To take part, please donate a minimum of £5 either by bank transfer (Mrs LHC & Mr BP Harrison, 20-73-53, 70981257) or give cash to Joyce or David.

Please email Evie's Mum Lynn - [lynnfanshawe@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lynnfanshawe@hotmail.co.uk) - or let Joyce and David know you have donated.

Lynn will then email you the quiz, which you have until 30 June 2022, to complete. Send Lynn your answer and think what to will do with your £25 cash prize, should you be the clever winner.

## A BBQ feast fit for the Queen

Addington Methodist Church will host a BBQ to celebrate 70 years of the Queen's reign on Saturday 4 June.

The BBQ will take place between 12 noon

and 3pm and a list has been put up in church so people can sign-up to say they are attending.

Donations towards the cost of the BBQ would be appreciated.

# Message board

## An excellent Easter

On Good Friday, for the first time since 2019, I went to St John the Divine for a service with people of all the Churches in Selsdon and Addington and then we walked to Selsdon Baptist Church – following a young man carrying the cross and a drummer.

As we walked people came out of shops and cafes and thanked us and were smiling. This was not the reaction we received before, but I think it showed that people had realised they missed the regular events which happened during the year.

Then a thank you to the Rainbow, Brownies and Guides who meet at the Church on a Friday for a wonderful display on the noticeboard in the vestibule. It was lovely. Then we had a wonderful Easter egg hunt, which was so well organised and involved some many children. Thank you for all those that helped organise this event.

Finally, thanks to those who organised breakfast for those who came to Church on Easter Day for an early service. This is a thank you to all who made this "open" Easter such a marvellous event.

*Linda White  
Member of the Church family*

# June worship

Email [addmethzoom@gmail.com](mailto:addmethzoom@gmail.com) to get a link to worship from home via Zoom.

## 10:30am Morning Services

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| 5 June  | Sunday Service with Rev Pam Clews   |
| 12 June | Junior Church Anniversary Sunday Service with Local Preacher Caryl Rapps  |
| 19 June | Refugee Sunday and Father's Day Sunday Service including Sacrament of Holy Communion with Rev Soon Cheol Choi and Lay Pastor Bennie Harms |
| 26 June | Conference Sunday Service with Junior Church  |

## Tea and Coffee After Sunday Service Helpers

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| 5 June  | Cathy Oldham, Cecelia Essiam, Margaret Ansong      |
| 12 June | Jenny Halliday, Angela Mills, Emma Hughes          |
| 19 June | Sonia Smith, Caroline Lamptey, Edward Larby        |
| 26 June | Jane Colvert, Appolonia Madinyenya, Tatiana Tivoli |

### Elsewhere in this issue....

“What brought you to this country?” has been the most asked question

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Jerusalem today is far more crowded than I remember it being in the past

>> Page 10

>> Can you find all the royalty-related words that have been hidden in the wordsearch?

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# Platinum ponderings

## Bennie Harms

What can a 'nice boy' from the Colonies say about the Platinum Jubilee of someone whom I've been taught about all my life and whom I've been taught to respect (and in some cases revere)? Quite a lot actually! And not all of it would make pleasant or interesting reading either.

*'God Save The Queen'* was my national anthem from young until my early teenage years. And then we (as a country) rebelled and simply claimed 'our independence'! Things changed rapidly after that – her image was removed from our currency; the national anthem was changed. But those were heady days and as a 'privileged' member (albeit living in youthful, ignorant bliss) of a suppressive society I simply went along with all that was happening and copied the slogans of 'independence and freedom'.

I am now a 70-year-old, alive as long as the Queen has been on the throne. In 2015 my status changed, and I became a British citizen (something which my colonial heritage had already given me but which through the stroke of a pen later I was to lose). When I was made a citizen, I swore an oath of allegiance to Queen Elizabeth II, her heir, and successors by law (plus other stuff as well).

So, having come full circle what can I say?

It is my prayer that at this time when we celebrate the Platinum Jubilee, we give God thanks for her reign, for the standards she has maintained and for her example. May she continue to know and experience His hand upon her life. When the time comes for her to hand over to whomever becomes her successor, may he move into the position of power and authority with the same dignity she possesses. May his rule of the nation be for the good and benefit of its people and may they constantly and consistently keep in mind the need for justice, peace and equality for our nation as a whole.

*Bennie Harms, Lay Pastor*

# To be a pilgrim (again)

**Carol Rapps**

**Two years ago, Diana, my niece, came to me with a request, “You have always said that if I ever wanted to go to Israel you would come with me.” There was no way I could refuse. After a lot of hurdles to climb and hoops to jump through in these difficult times on Monday 21 March we boarded a flight to Tel Aviv.**

I felt so blessed as this was the fourth time of becoming a pilgrim in the land where Jesus walked.

There were 12 of us in the party with our journey starting in Jerusalem. Early morning starts were the order of the day with 8.30am being the latest. There was much to see, and Jerusalem today is far more crowded than I remember it being in the past.

We made our way to the Mount of Olives where we looked out over Jerusalem. Our first stop was the church of the Paternoster. On the walls are mosaics of the Lord’s Prayer in many different languages.

This church commemorates the place where Jesus taught his disciples to pray. It really brings home how far the message of Jesus has spread after he started his work with just a group of 12 men who were not academics but

just ordinary people he called to come and follow him. Now, after 2,000 years, that message is still spreading and being translated into so many different languages.

I was so pleased that as we made our way along the Palm Sunday route we stopped at Dominus Flevit, my favourite place in Jerusalem.

It is here we commemorate how Jesus wept as he looked out over Jerusalem and wanted to gather the people as a hen gathers her chicks.

The beautiful window behind the altar looks out over the city of Jerusalem, then in front of the altar is a mosaic of the hen and her chicks. I just had to sit a while here and look through that window wondering what Jesus would make of the troubles in Jerusalem today.

We also stopped at Gethsemane, where there is a huge church with the altar over a rock where it is said Christ prayed. Outside the olive trees are very old with one, according to carbon dating, which could have been in the grove when Christ was there.

Again, I paused to think about what agony Christ must have



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and look  
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window**

### **Did you know?**

The City of Jerusalem's Mount of Olives is the oldest active burial site in the world.

gone through on that evening in Gethsemane.

Across the Kidron Valley is the church of Peter Gallicantu, where the High Priest lived. We view here the steps which are old enough for Christ to have walked up after his arrest in Gethsemane.

The first time I went out to the Holy Land I was able to walk up the steps myself but now they are cordoned off to preserve them.

Our Galilee part of the pilgrimage, with a hotel room looking out onto Galilee, was wonderfully reflective. We had visits to Capernaum, Tabga

(loaves and fishes), a trip across the lake on a boat, Mount of Beatitudes and another of my favourite places Mensa Christi, where Jesus was waiting on the shore for his disciples with a fire for cooking fish.

It was a privilege to revisit Israel. I feel blessed indeed to have been able to go again and thank Diana for asking me.

On the surface this trip did not seem such a spiritual one as those before but perhaps it is in the reflective thoughts on returning home that the spirit speaks.

*Caryl Rapps,  
Lay Preacher*

# Vaccination vans hit the road

Croydon Council is working with Croydon Health Services to offer Covid-19 vaccinations from one of its repurposed testing vans which are popping up at various locations.

In partnership with South-West London Clinical Commissioning Group and Croydon Health Services NHS, the council began the vaccination van programme in early April.

Introduced at the end of December, the vans were supporting communities that found it hard to access-19 lateral flow tests. However, as



The vaccination vans will be at various locations around Croydon

free testing has ended, the partnership repurposed the van for vaccinations.

The vans are offering all doses of Covid-19 vaccinations - 1st, 2nd or booster - and there is no

appointment needed.

To see the van's schedule visit: [www.croydon.gov.uk/coronavirus-information-and-service-updates/pop-vaccination-van-schedule](http://www.croydon.gov.uk/coronavirus-information-and-service-updates/pop-vaccination-van-schedule)

## Croydon named as London Borough of Culture 2023

Croydon has won the race to be London's Borough of Culture in 2023.

The Mayor of London Sadiq Khan awarded Croydon the title

and £1.3m funding for the borough's bid.

Croydon 2023 will celebrate the borough's creativity, diversity and

inclusivity with 10 flagship cultural events and hundreds of community projects.

The council's ambitious

programme will involve 20,000 participants, every school, 300 volunteers, audiences of more than 250,000 and over 1,500 artists.

## Forestdale seeks tree expert

Forestdale Primary School is looking for someone to talk to its students about trees.

Part of next term's curriculum is learning about trees, so the school is looking for a

botanist, tree surgeon or landscape specialist to talk about their work.

If you can help, please email: [adminoffice@forestdale.croydon.sch.uk](mailto:adminoffice@forestdale.croydon.sch.uk).



## Crystal Palace to mark jubilee

Tickets are being made available for a celebratory beacon lighting ceremony at Crystal Palace Park in recognition of Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee.

The free ticketed celebratory event will take place on Thursday 2 June, marking the start of the four-day commemorative bank holiday.

Tickets are being allocated on a first-come, first-serve basis and are available online.

To book tickets visit: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/platinum-jubilee-beacon-lighting-ceremony-tickets-305823114167>

# Community contacts

## Huntingfield Pre-School

Contact: Elaine Back  
Email: [info@huntingfieldpreschool.co.uk](mailto:info@huntingfieldpreschool.co.uk)

## 5th Selsdon & Addington Scouts Pinewood Seahorses

Contact: David Steeds  
Email: [davidsteeds@hotmail.com](mailto:davidsteeds@hotmail.com)  
[pinewoodseahorses@hotmail.com](mailto:pinewoodseahorses@hotmail.com)

## Addington Methodist Lunch Club

Contact: Jenny Harms  
Email: [jenharms2110@gmail.com](mailto:jenharms2110@gmail.com)

## 6th Addington Rainbows & Brownies 1st Addington Guides

Contact: Andrea McCallum  
Email: [ville13th2nd@virginmedia.com](mailto:ville13th2nd@virginmedia.com)

## Lemoine School of Dancing Exercise classes

Contact: Fiona Avenalle  
Phone: 020 86570602

# Platinum Jubilee wordsearch

*This month's Creation Station marks the Queen's 70 years on the throne with a special wordsearch. Can you find all the words that have been hidden?*

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
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| W | N | T | T | L | L | Z | P | T | D | L | O | T | X | N | T |
| G | O | L | F | F | Z | K | F | L | O | N | R | P | O | L | H |
| V | J | A | M | A | D | N | B | N | A | O | O | R | W | E | R |
| E | X | E | M | C | C | C | D | E | S | T | T | C | U | M | O |
| O | P | W | R | Y | E | O | S | D | O | H | I | L | E | E | N |
| O | O | N | O | J | N | L | N | C | E | C | A | N | N | S | E |
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| V | R | C | N | E | X | A | C | D | E | Q | T | B | N | J | E |
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| S | I | A | P | A | L | A | C | E | R | U | V | I | O | O | X |
| X | N | S | A | N | D | R | I | N | G | H | A | M | F | N | R |
| D | T | J | N | C | O | R | O | N | A | T | I | O | N | G | K |

- Balmoral
- Castle
- Celebration
- Commonwealth
- Corgi
- Coronation
- Elizabeth
- England
- Horses
- Jubilee
- London
- Northern Ireland
- Palace
- Platinum
- Queen
- Royal
- Sandringham
- Scotland
- Second
- Seventy
- Throne
- Windsor

## What I learned in Junior Church

**Jonathan Tsang**

**We were given the Easter Story and completed a multiple-choice quiz.**

The week before

Easter Day is known as Holy Week and Lent lasts for 40 days. It is a time of

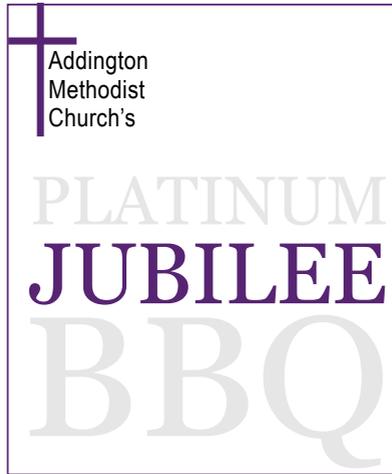
fasting and Easter is always in April.

*Jonathan Tsang  
Aged 11*



Well done to Messy Church members who painted a 'Hosanna' poster, made crosses by weaving wool around nails on a board and congratulations to Junior Church members for making fabulous Mother's Day keyrings.

To share your creations or ideas for things to make email [addingtonmethodistmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:addingtonmethodistmagazine@gmail.com) or message us via our Facebook page [@AddingtonMethodistChurch](https://www.facebook.com/AddingtonMethodistChurch).



Addington Methodist Church is holding a BBQ to mark  
Queen Elizabeth II's 70 years on the throne

**Saturday 4 June from 12noon to 3pm**

Please sign-up by adding your name to the list in the reception area.  
Donations towards the cost would be much appreciated.