



CONNEXION



On the road to Emmaus

**The magazine of
Christ Church Methodist, Addiscombe
MAY 2022**

**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*

WORSHIP

MAY		
Sunday 10.30am	1	Morning Worship on Zoom and in Church – Mrs Caryl Rapps
Sunday 10.30am	8	CHURCH ANNIVERSARY Parade and All Age Worship on Zoom and in Church Revd Choi (followed by a celebration ‘bring your own lunch’)
Sunday 10.30am 5.00pm	15	CHRISTIAN AID WEEK Morning Worship on Zoom and in Church – Ms Avis Blair Café Worship
Sunday 10.30am 4.00pm	22	ALDERSGATE SUNDAY Holy Communion on Zoom and in Church – Revd Choi Messy Church
Sunday 10.30am	29	Morning Worship – Revd Nadine Wilkinson

Christ Church worship normally takes place at 10.30am on Sundays in Church or via Zoom – the links are on the email sending out the weekly Keeping in Touch sheet. **If you worship by landline and wish to join a breakout group following the service, please remember to unmute yourself just before the end of the service by keying in *6 on your telephone. It's not possible to unmute yourself once you're in a breakout group.** 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/Andrew Thynne.

Cafe Worship – on Sunday 15 May at 5.00pm – in church or via Zoom. The 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.

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FOOD BANK DONATIONS

There will be an opportunity to make a donation to the Food Bank on Saturday 14 May between 10.30am and 12 noon at church. Thank you.



Welcome to the May 2022 edition. We hope you enjoy reading the magazine. Any suggestions to Fiona please or 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 JUNE 2022 by **Sunday 22 May** by email to ccmamagazine@hotmail.com. Requests for email version to above address. Thanks as always to all contributors. *Editorial team*

OUR MINISTER'S LETTER

“Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave – just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”
(Matthew 20. 26-28)

Dear friends,

I don't think we can deny that we are living in the 'Me-first' culture. Not only that, but also we see some political leaders dare to declare 'My country first'. This must be one of the reasons of the war in Ukraine, as well as the conflicts in other areas.

In this respect, I think the lesson from Matthew 20 would be another hard one Jesus gave us. No one wants to be a servant or slave. And, in the world, people usually measure greatness by high personal achievement. But, what Jesus said is that in his kingdom service is the way to get on. And, we do serve in our church life as much as we can, and as far as we can enjoy. Actually, it is amazing that the whole church is run and managed by our humble service and sharing and volunteering. And, I deeply appreciate the commitments and contributions made by all the church family.

However, what challenges us in his teaching is that this service is more than volunteering as Jesus showed it by willingly washing his disciples' feet. I think this act of service gives us a full picture of what servant-hood is all about. It is about humbling, self-denying, forgiving, reconciling, loving, and so on.

Sometimes, I hear people saying ‘That is not for me. Or, that is not my call’. I can understand what it means. I agree that we are all given different gifts and called for different tasks. But, we must notice that in the Bible God often calls a person who seems to be a misfit. For example, Abraham was old, and Moses was not good at speech. They all must have thought God’s call was not for them. But, we hear that God used each of them in his service.

Real servants make themselves available to serve without making excuses. They do what is needed, even when it is inconvenient. If that is the case, you may think it is so demanding and far beyond your ability. But, what we shouldn’t forget is that we were saved to serve God. In 2 Timothy 1:9, Paul says, “It is he who has saved us and called us to a holy work – not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace”.

It’s a big commitment. But, its reward cannot be compared to anything in this world, I dare to say.

As we are slowly moving out of the lockdown and coming back to ‘normal’, a new ‘normal’, we see some significant vacancies to be filled. I hope and pray that we all may be reminded of the real servanthood Jesus taught us and humbly come forward to fulfil the tasks for the work of God.

Every blessing,
Rev. SC Choi.



Community Jubilee Party



On the afternoon of June 4th, Christ Church is holding a community party on our front garden and carpark (weather permitting!) to mark the Platinum Jubilee of the Queen.

There will be stalls, family games, cream teas and other refreshments, children's activities, musical entertainment and more. We are hoping that lots of people from our church and the local community will attend so please invite your friends and families using the flyers which will be available soon.

As June 4th is not far away the planning is well underway and now is the time that we are asking for donations of:

- good quality used books, toys and bric-a-brac.
- Small items for a children's lucky dip, eg: pencils, little notebooks etc.
- Variety of sizes of bottles (non-alcoholic) and cans for the tombola.

These can be brought to church at any time and put in the purple box near the Community Jubilee Party noticeboard in the Fellowship Hall. (Alternatively these items could be collected).

Closer to the day we would like donations of cakes (homemade or bought) for the refreshments and cake stall. Please sign up on the list on the noticeboard if you can help with this.

Also on the noticeboard there are rotas for helpers on the various stalls and activities. Please sign up in the spaces available to share in the fun of helping run this event.

Although we're hoping for fine weather we need to be prepared for rain so if anyone could lend a gazebo then again please sign up on the board.

Let's all work together so that we can make this **Community Jubilee Party** a big success.

All proceeds will be donated to the development of a new local Youth Project in Ashburton Park called The Zaian Centre.

If there are any queries then please contact Mary Salter.



You are invited to
the COMMUNITY JUBILEE PARTY
Saturday June 4th 2022
2.00 - 4.30pm

Fun for all including...
Cream teas
Cake Stall
Children's craft activities
Family games
Book and toy stall
Bric-a-brac
Local art stalls
Musical entertainment



All are welcome

at Christ Church Methodist,
114 Lower Addiscombe Road
CRO 6AD

Christ Church **Methodist** Addiscombe
building faith and community in a changing world

christchurchmethodistevents@gmail.com



Relax and Create

will be meeting on
Saturday 7 May
between 12 noon-5.00pm at church

for you to practise and enjoy your handicrafts, receive a warm
welcome - and a cuppa

(Donation - £5 per session)



OUR CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

on **Sunday 8 May** will be followed by
a 'bring your own' lunch in the garden if
weather permits. We hope to see you there!

**See weekly Keeping in Touch sheet
for updates or email me.
The Zoom link will be on the
Keeping in Touch sheet**

Our next meeting will be on

SUNDAY 15 MAY 2022 at 5pm

Led by Wendy Thompson

Hybrid Cafe Worship

Join us on Zoom or at church

Everyone can be part of it



All are welcome for an informal hour of worship and fellowship

Wendy Thompson



For all ages together

Messy Church
Sunday 22nd May
Sunday 26 June

4 – 5pm

Craft, games, story and songs.
Snacks and drinks provided
All welcome

Christ Church Methodist,
114 Lower Addiscombe Road, Croydon, CR0 6AD



For more info
email: enquiries@christchurchmeth.org.uk
Or phone 020 86564610

Something in the air

It is May,
And Spring is in the air,
Soon a celebration, an
Anniversary affair.

We'll bring our food,
Sarnies, cakes,banoffee,
Sitting out in the warm sunny air,
Drinking tea or coffee.

Springtime, brings blossoms,
on branches of trees,
And blooms in the garden,
Aesthetically please.

So come all ye seekers,
of fun, food and love,
We'll worship together,
the good Lord above.

All around the tables,
We'll sit there and chat,
And pray for good weather,
And amen to that.

Bob Horne
26/04/22



ENCOUNTERING GOD IN THE BIBLE

The next bible study will be on Friday
20 May from 10.30am-12 noon led by

Revd Pam Clews. It'll be held in the Blue Room at Church
and all are very welcome. Entry is from the door by the
rear car park or the side entrance.





Action for Children Update May 2022

Action for Children is a Methodist linked charity which supports children, young people and their carers across the UK.

The charity gets some money from government, local authorities and businesses but this kind of funding isn't guaranteed long-term, therefore it relies on individual donations to provide much of the support it gives to children and young people. Any size of donation makes a difference as it helps run vital community services that local authorities can't fund.

The requests for the help from Action for Children continues to increase with the consequences of Covid and the rapidly rising costs of living. The donations help pay for essentials that people can't otherwise afford plus for support with the physical and mental health of vulnerable children and their families.

Collection Boxes

Many members of Christ Church have Action for Children collection boxes at home which are normally collected each year and the money sent off to the charity. However since the start of the pandemic many people now do not use cash regularly and hence do not have the loose change to put into their collection box. The charity obviously still needs our donations so there are several options. If you have a box or would like to donate can you please do one of the following by the end of May :

- a) Either give me your collection box as normal with either cash or a cheque (*payable to Action for Children*) in it. Please contact me if you would like me to collect your box if that's easier.
- b) Or if you prefer to make a bank transfer (whether you are a box holder or would like to make a one-off donation) please contact me for my bank details.

Many thanks. Mary Salter



With and without Words

As you travel from Croydon along Addiscombe Road towards the first Shirley roundabout, there is a garden on the left with a large bright flag in the front garden to catch your eye. It is opposite the entrance to the Golf Club, and it advertises a Buddhist Temple. There is head-shaven nun in charge who was pleased to welcome me in and show me a big and bright central place of worship with soft grass-like flooring. She explained that the temple is connected to the Buddhists of Vietnam.

On the day I visited, the nun faced four Buddhas, spaced among an array of colourful symbols and began to sing and chant while tapping a deep sounding metal bowl on one side and then tapping a head-shaped wooden, hollow glocken ball on her other side. She was busy at this for one hour twenty minutes while I and one other person sat quietly on the soft green floor.

It was a memorable experience and set me thinking about an earlier meditation I once attended. There were monks in rows meditating while occasionally being slapped (mildly) by a leather strap if they showed signs of straying from their discipline of meditation.

As I understand it, prayer is a partnership with words, while meditation is a deeper partnership, a reaching inwardly and deeply connecting without words. In the Christian world, monasteries and convents nurture contemplatives, a parallel term.

Many people, and I, too, remember an experience, a gift, in which time seemed to stand still, while being conscious of a Presence – a once in a lifetime event. A link, perhaps, to Moses' sunset bush.



I am beginning to join these thoughts as I ponder the statues my wife left me. They are like lighthouses – mostly untitled and rarely with any words of explanation. They were born through meditation and a respect for all world faiths, from her own Christian base.

I later returned to the temple and gave a photograph of her statue to the Vietnamese nun. 'Ah', she breathed 'Buddha'. I pointed to the hands holding a heart and the receptive Lotus but she was well ahead of me with these.

Rex

Ockenden Venture



Seeing the reports coming out of Ukraine reminded me of two teachers from Mitcham Girls Grammar School, Joyce Pearce and Margaret Dixon, who in 1948 started the Ockenden Venture to bring children from displaced persons camps in Germany to be educated in England. They had a large house in Woking which housed about 20-24 children. Most of the children were Polish.

We heard lots of stories about the project and when I joined the school in 1950, it was well-established and it became our school's main charity. After a couple of years, three or four girls who were felt able to benefit from a Grammar School education came to our school. All the children who came to the project started at schools in Woking. The girls who came to Mitcham soon fitted in and became well-liked members of the school. The Boys Grammar in Mitcham also took two or three boys.

All the children were given lots of opportunities like theatre and other cultural trips, although on the first theatre trip they were quite worried when told they were going in a box. They thought cardboard or wooden, never having been to a theatre before.

The older pupils at our school were encouraged to help, sometimes spending time at the house in Woking. After leaving school, I spent several bank holiday weekends and even the odd week of my two-week holiday allowance. The volunteers were encouraged to do any task allotted, such as helping painting doors, etc, picking daffodils from the woods for the tables and even

embroidering names on the boys' underpants with amazing Polish names. Little did I realise that a few years later I would marry a Pole with a similar name!

Most of the children were able to return to Poland but a few stayed on to become staff members, including one girl who was born in Belsen Concentration Camp.

There was not as much paperwork then as there is now with the Ukrainians and Carl, who came to England in 1955, did not have to wait so long to claim asylum, although he had to report to a police station at regular intervals.

Let us hope we are able to welcome the Ukrainians as we did those fleeing after the Second World War.

Sheila Szzvanowski

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

We remember in our prayers all our friends who have been unwell, in particular Ian Briggs and Peter Langsdale. We also remember the Cheesman and Parkinson families on the ill health of Mick's mother Rita.

We thank God that at this special time of year, life at church is returning to near normal for many of us but we remember all those who are not able to be physically at church and pray that they will in the not too distant future be able to return.

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.



Saturday 28th May

2 - 5pm

Come rain - come
shine. We have a wet
weather plan!



Shirley Methodist Church

Platinum Jubilee

Community Garden Party

EVERYONE WELCOME

Refreshments Cakes Books Toy corner

Plants Face painting Charity stalls

Art exhibitions Raffle Crafts Music and lots more!

Visit our new Anniversary Garden



Eldon Ave Shirley CRO 8SD

www.shirleymeth.org.uk

Charity number 11 27524

CIRCUIT LAY PASTOR'S LETTER

Reflection – What future?

Victory and Hope out of Defeat and Despair

'Never the same again' – the weeks leading up to Easter 2022 will go down in history as one which changed this world, in which we live, forever! War and fighting; refugees fleeing; floods and famine; COVID – with rumours of new variants almost daily; politics and politicians – what is real, the truth, or simply fake news! No longer are we confined to our homes; the skies have become avenues again to faraway places promising sunshine, sea, and sand! The dread and fear which we faced during the lockdown periods for COVID have simply been replaced with serious concerns over the cost of living and whether we will survive all of this and more. Inflation is at record levels and quite frankly the picture is pretty grim!

And yet, a few short weeks ago, we were meeting together in our churches and joyfully proclaiming, "He is Risen! He is Risen indeed!!". If we return to those first days of the Resurrection, we'll see the disciples experiencing their own form of 'lockdown' as well. After Jesus' crucifixion, they locked themselves in the Upper Room – where they'd shared the Passover Meal together – because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders (John 20 vs 19).

Scripture tells us that the women followers of Jesus, were sitting watching where his body was laid, so they knew where to go when the Sabbath was over. For them and the other disciples everything had come to a sudden end! Life was never to be the same again! They'd been sat on their hands so to speak in obedience to the law (Luke 24:56) but now things were to change because they could go out. Go out to the tomb.

A Place of Defeat and Despair

For the disciples the Upper Room had become a place of 'despair and defeat'. With Jesus gone, I'm sure they felt that there was nothing to look forward to. No hope; know despair.

You might be feeling the same about the present global situation and the difficulties we face at home. Will we ever get out of this situation? When will it all change? Having to sit on your hands, doing nothing can be very debilitating and defeating. No hope; know despair.

A Place or Time of Contemplation

Mary (and the others) rested on the SABBATH in obedience to the law. And so, they remained indoors. Not venturing out at all. How did you handle those ‘seemingly endless days of Lockdown’? The TV, social media, newspapers were all full of ideas on how to remain sane during those days. Your place (or frame of mind) *can* change. We were encouraged to read, exercise, communicate with others – you name it, someone was encouraging you to do it. For Mary and her friends, they were thinking about Jesus – a dead body and what they needed to do to it, when they were free to do so.

Now that we are *free to come and go at our leisure*, can I encourage you to spend some time, for contemplation and reflection. I pray that you may experience a time of ‘new experiences, new ways.’

A Place of Victory and Hope

When Mary and the other women went to the same place of Defeat and Despair – the tomb; they found a new place of **Victory and Hope**. With the words of the angels ringing in their ears they ran back to the others (in their debilitating place of lockdown) and told them “He is alive!”

With those words came NEW LIFE; NEW HOPE; NEW POWER!

Because of His death, we can now enjoy forgiveness and grace, allowing us to move forward. Charles Wesley wrote, ‘*he breaks the power of cancelled sin; he sets the prisoner free*’ (StF 364), and also, ‘*My chains fell off, my heart was free, I rose went forth and followed thee*’ (StF 345)

It is my prayer that you may know this ‘newness’ today! Despite all the War and fighting; refugees fleeing; floods and famine; COVID – with rumours of new variants almost daily; politics and politicians – what is real, the truth, or simply fake news! Despite all of this I pray that this will be for you a time of ‘freedom and fullness of NEW life’ that comes from knowing Jesus Christ personally.

May God bless you,
Bennie Harms – Lay Pastor

POETRY SERIES



Leslie Griffiths introduces his favourite poems

Sundays at Shirley Methodist Church

15th May, 6pm

The search for God

22nd May, 6pm

The negative way

29th May, 6pm

Black poets matter

5th June, 6pm

And so do women poets

12th June, 6pm

To be young was very heaven

All welcome!

Weekly Services and Meetings at Christ Church			
09.15	Holy Communion (2 nd Sun)		
09.00	Time for quiet prayer (Zoom)		
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)		
Thursday			
09.30	0-5 Stay & Play		
18.30	Guides and Brownies Combined Unit		
Minister		Revd Soon Cheol Choi	8654 5481
Church Stewards			
Sunday morning services only → Sunday morning services only → Sunday morning services only →			
Room Bookings		Pat Bates	