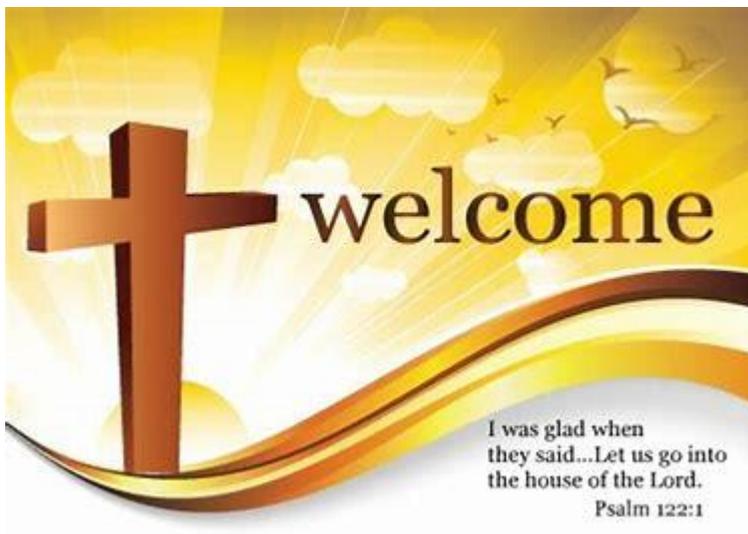




CONNEXION



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

**Minister: Revd Richard Lowson
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

SEPTEMBER		
Thursday 7.30pm	1	Circuit Welcome Service at Downsview Methodist Church for Revds Gyula Fiak and Richard Lowson (see Zoom links on back page)
Sunday 10.30am	4	Climate Sunday Morning Worship in Church and on Zoom - Revd Pam Clews
Sunday 10.30am	11	Education Sunday All Age Worship and Parade in Church and on Zoom – Revd Richard Lowson (followed by bring & share lunch)
Sunday 10.30am 5.00pm	18	Peace Sunday Morning Worship in Church and on Zoom – Mrs Ann Atkins Cafe Worship led by Wendy Thompson
Sunday 10.30am 4.00pm	25	Holy Communion in Church and on Zoom– Revd Richard Lowson Messy Church

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 18 September 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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Welcome to the September 2022 edition. We hope you enjoy reading the magazine. Any suggestions to Fiona. *Please note that any opinions expressed in articles are personal to the authors and may not be endorsed by the editors.*

COPY DEADLINE FOR OCTOBER 2022 by **Sunday 18 September** either by email to ccmamagazine@hotmail.com or by phone to Fiona. Requests for email version to above address. Thanks as always to all contributors.

Editorial team

Our (new) Minister's Letter



Snapshot of Richard

While sorting out for my move to Croydon I came across some of the girls' early paintings. Simple brush strokes, but I know that behind each of those brush strokes there is so much more. I will paint a simple picture of myself using simple brush strokes.

I was born in a lovely Yorkshire village, just outside Halifax. So I grew up surrounded by hills, moorland and forests. On leaving school I went to work for a company called Freudenberg's (better known as Vileda or Vilene for those who clean or sew) – I worked in production/stock control and sales.

Then I felt a real call at the age of 30 to embark on a second journey – and that stage took me through candidating and training at Lincoln theological College to being ordained at the Methodist conference in Bristol in 1995.

I have travelled and ministered in lots of different settings from urban to rural, city to pioneering ministry on a new housing development. Stopping off in the following circuits: Reading and Silchester, Ripon, Nottingham Trent Valley, Bramhall, Redhill and East Grinstead and I come to you from West Hertfordshire and Borders (Bushey).

I have 2 daughters, Hannah and Rachael, who live with their Mum in Horley, but you will see the girls from time to time. My spare time is spent travelling, I love European city breaks, walking – as part of my last sabbatical I tackled the path to Santiago de Compostela and have been hooked ever since. Love gardening and visiting gardens. And in my study I will be placing my body boards – prompting me to make time to catch some waves. I love creating – painting and stained glass work.

Creativity spills over into my worship and ministry and one area of ministry I am keen to develop (if it feels right) is a ministry of baking bread and sharing stories. I have a real passion to engage and connect with our communities.

I think I've given you a glimpse of who I am, and I really look forward to sharing your stories. I am excited about this next stage in our journey together as we try and work out together what it means to be church in these different and challenging times. I leave you with some words from one of my favourite hymns: This, this, is the God we adorewe'll praise Him for all that is past, and trust Him for all that's to come.

Richard

WELCOMING OUR NEW MINISTER, REVD RICHARD LOWSON, TO THE CIRCUIT AND TO CHRIST CHURCH

There are several opportunities to welcome and get to know our new Minister in the next few weeks:

Everyone is invited to the Circuit Welcome Service for Revd Gyula Fiak and Revd Richard Lowson on **Thursday 1 September** at 7.30pm at Downsview Methodist Church, Waddington Way, Upper Norwood, SE19 3XH (also on Zoom – see back cover for links).

On **Saturday 10 September**, there will be a coffee morning at church from 10.30am-12 noon and it's hoped Richard will be able to pop in and meet those present. At the same time, donations to the Croydon Food Bank will be accepted. The Food Bank require the following: toilet rolls, microwaveable meals, tinned meals eg chicken or vegetable stew, desserts, such as tinned fruit or long life pots of rice pudding, tinned meat and fish, pot noodles, tinned vegetables and especially tinned potatoes and long life milk. They do not need pasta or baked beans!



Sunday 11 September will be Richard's first service of All Age Worship at Christ Church at 10.30am and on Zoom. This will be followed by a bring and share lunch at which it's hoped many of the congregation will be present to meet Richard.

On **Sunday 25 September**, there will be a service of Holy Communion at church and on Zoom which is being led by Richard.

Richard is leading our Communion services on the fourth Sundays of both October and November.

We hope to see you in church or on Zoom as we go forward in our faith with our new minister.

“CHANGING OF THE GUARD”

We say a big thank you to Natalie Thomas and Adrian Pickett who have come to the end of their term as Stewards. And a late thank you to Zoe Rogers-Wright who came to the end of her term as a Sunday Steward earlier in the summer.

As readers will know we are delighted to welcome Eunice Hollist as a Sunday Steward. These changes mean we start the new Methodist year with two full Stewards, Alex St John and Andrew Thynne and two Sunday Stewards, Eunice and Karen Taylor. So we could potentially be rather busy! We all work full time so please bear with us if you don't see as many things happening that you expect or running as smoothly as you have experienced. Please consider if you can join the team.

Andrew Thynne

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

We were sad to learn of the death on 22 July of Ian Briggs, a much loved member of our congregation for many years. Ian would have been 94 years of age on 25 July. Quite a number of “Croydon” friends attended the service of thanksgiving and we remember his son Andy and daughter in law Helen and all the family in our prayers. There will be a remembrance of his life in the October edition.

This has been a summer of comings and goings in the way of freedom for many of us to take holidays and we thank God for this time of refreshment of our spirits.

We remember all our friends who have been unwell in our prayers, especially those we haven't seen for a while, that they remain strong in the knowledge of God's love for them all.

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.

A Time to Remember



August has come to a close,
In heat we melted in repose,
Daily we prayed for the wet,
Not sure whatever we'd get,
A break, a chance to be cool and not ache.

The Holiday Club Sunday gave joy,
As we said goodbye to Choi,
Then Bennie Harms left, plucking his 12 string guitar,
Moving to Beckenham, not so far.

And coming soon will be Richard our Rev,
Our church in Addiscombe to serve,
He'll show us with style,
And go the extra mile,
As he leads us in worship from the start.

Bob Horne
22/8/22

Relax and Create

**will be meeting on Saturday 3 September (1st
Saturday of the month) at 12.00-5.00pm at church**

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

(Donation - £5 per session)

**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 18 SEPTEMBER 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

ENCOUNTERING GOD IN THE BIBLE.



The next bible study will be on Friday
16 September 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.



For all ages together

Messy Church

Sunday 25 September

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 8656 4610

Methodist Summer Fellowship



This event normally happens every two years but was obviously delayed last year. Carl and I always attend at the Hays Conference Centre, set in beautiful countryside in Derbyshire.

There were about 120 people, aged from four months to over 90 – quite a few we knew. There are separate programmes for children, teenagers and adults. Everyone can attend whatever they want, such as Bible study and groups of about 8-10 in the morning.

Some of the guest speakers included a children's author and a lady who works with women in the East End. She is from Bangladesh and works across all faiths.

The first evening, we could all pick a drum and were all given a Psalm to read while the leader started a certain rhythm. All ages took part – the children from about five years - to the oldest at the Fellowship.

The afternoons were devoted to sports and workshops – one day I was decorating glass while Carl was playing chess.

The last evening we had Communion starting with the smallest children blowing bubbles. There was dance and then Communion. Carl, who speaks Hebrew, gave a final blessing in that language as Jesus may have done. After Communion, most went down to the lounge to let their hair down. Someone put a grass skirt on Carl – a sight to be seen!

Sheila Szzvanowski

GIVING

How to give at Christ Church

Church members contribute to its life and work in a variety of different ways – one of these is financial, as we respond to the giving of a generous God. Regular giving enables the church to plan and budget for its various areas of work and there are several ways in which you can give:

Online giving

You can choose to set up a regular monthly donation or make a one-off gift to Christ Church. To do so, click on:

<https://www.give.net/20303706>

This is Christ Church Methodist Addiscombe's online giving portal provided by Give.net.

Envelope Scheme giving

You can choose to give by opting for the Envelope Scheme. If prefer to use this method of giving, please contact the Envelope Secretary, Eunice Hollist. Current Envelope Holders who have changed or wish to change to another mode of giving e.g., standing order or bank transfers, please inform Eunice of your decision.

Bank transfers and standing orders

You can make a one-off payment or regular standing order directly with your bank either by telephone or internet banking using these account details:

Account name: Christ Church Methodist Addiscombe

Account number: 70248053

Sort code: 20 -24 – 61

Bank name: Barclays Bank UK plc

Please ask your bank to quote your name as a reference.

Thanks to all who continue to support the work of the church by giving.

Gift Aid

The Methodist Church is a charitable body that is able to benefit from Gift Aid donations.

If you pay tax in the UK, then Gift Aid is a simple way to increase the value of your gift to charity.

Can anybody give through Gift Aid?

Yes, provided that you are a UK Tax Payer.

How can I go about giving through Gift Aid?

Please speak to **David Matthews**, the Gift Aid Secretary for your church to discuss the procedure used. It is possible to make donations in cash, by cheque and by standing order. Special giving envelopes are used for collection plate donations to make it possible to identify who has made the donations and make the claims. It is all done in complete confidentiality.

How will my donation qualify for Gift Aid?

In order for your donation to qualify, you must:

- Be a UK taxpayer
- Pay at least as much Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax as the charity will recover on your donation in the tax year.
- Complete a declaration to indicate that you are happy for the Methodist Church to recover the tax on your donation(s).

There are standard forms that should be used and the Gift Aid Secretary for the Church will be able to provide full details.

How much does the Church gain financially?

A donation of £10.00 under Gift Aid is equivalent to a donation of £12.50 to the church.



Gift Aid Declaration

Please treat as Gift Aid donations all qualifying gifts of money made (tick ALL relevant boxes)

- today in the past 4 years in the future

Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate

Gift Aid is reclaimed by The Methodist Church from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer.

By completing this form you confirm:

“I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.”

Please complete in capitals

Date:

Church Name: **Christ Church Methodist Addiscombe**

Title	Initials*	Forename(s)	Surname*
Address* (House Number and first line of address at least)			
Post Code*			
Signature (Optional)			

***Please note that the details marked with * are mandatory.**

Please notify your Gift Aid Secretary if you:

- Want to cancel this declaration
- Change your name or home address
- No longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or Capital gains.

If you pay Income Tax at a higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self Assessment tax return or ask HMRC to adjust your tax code.

You can either provide initial or forename or both, but you should AT LEAST provide one of the two.

Memories of Shopping through the decades



My first memories of shopping were going to Tooting Junction to get our rations. During and for a few years after the 2nd World War, most food and clothes were rationed. When I was about seven, I went on a Tuesday to buy sausages (not on ration) from the butchers managed by my granddad. I was soon allowed to go with the precious ration books to get other food.

By the end of the 1950s, supermarkets were beginning to appear. Things like flour, sugar and dried fruit were sold in packs, not from sacks as before. Branded goods were also sold.

When we got married in 1966, we shopped two or three times a week as the furnished flat we had did not have a fridge. After about 18 months, we moved to a self-contained flat in Croydon with a fridge. There was still a greengrocer who came round with his horse and cart. When we got married, we budgeted £4.10 shillings (£4.50) for food and we ate very well.

Department stores were common - Allders, Grants and Kennards (later to become Debenhams) in Croydon. Surrey Street market was always buzzing – the stalls much closer together than now.

There was no internet or credit cards when we first came to Croydon so everything was purchased in person. (I still prefer to see what I'm buying.)

Hopefully the High Street will be regenerated. It is said that with the financial crisis, cash is making a comeback!

Sheila Szzvanowski

I've Been Thinking

Hunter gatherers and stone age people were filled with feelings of flight or fight responses whenever they met a new threatening problem. Modern people have come a long way from those times but we still hold a lot of primitive reactions deep in our day to day reactions.

I want to suggest that many of our prejudices are born from our ancient survival instincts. For example, Black Lives Matter was born when a heavy US policeman knelt on the neck and back of a black man who had caught his attention. 'I can't breathe' the man on the floor kept gasping for 9 minutes before he died. The policeman did not want to kill the man under his knee but he did want to dominate him thoroughly. Why? I think the policeman was frightened, unconsciously frightened that the black man, and the black population would, one day, take over the states of USA. The misogyny, racism, Confederate thinking, and automatic rifles of the south, no matter how illogical, are the result of long term fear.

Our police in this country patrol without guns because they, and Parliament want to keep us, the public, on side. This takes courage and it continues because the alternative would be to encourage the fear driven brutality we see across the Atlantic.

The big rumpus about banning abortions in USA has, in spite of religious principles, the real fear of future racist 'swamping'. Some may laugh but fear is a part of this 50 year reversal ruling. It comes from a deep, illogical, buried fear. Thank goodness we have progressed from such illogical prejudices?

Rex

Kind words can be short and easy to speak but
their echoes are truly endless
Mother Teresa

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY:



The monthly coffee morning at church on **Saturday, October 8th** will be Macmillan Coffee Morning.

Drop in any time between 10.30 and 11.30 and be part of the world's biggest coffee morning, albeit it a week later than the official date!

Donations of cakes will be gratefully received.

(There will also be the usual opportunity to bring donations for the Croydon Food Bank if you wish).

SUPERINTENDENT'S LETTER

Welcome and Warmth

Dear friends, I write this letter as we prepare the manses for the arrival of Revd Gyula Fiak and Revd Richard Lowson. We look forward to their arrival in Croydon and pray they will settle and find opportunities to use their gifts and graces as they minister alongside us. The circuit welcome service will take place at Downsview on Thursday 1 September; the service will begin at 7.30 pm, but refreshments will be available from 6 pm.

I am delighted to inform you that Revd Juliet Ushewokunze, who candidated from this circuit, has returned as a supernumerary.

The impact of the cost of living crisis is already being felt by many and further price rises in the coming months are likely to make this winter extremely hard. I encourage us to continue exploring creative ways we may be good neighbours, especially during the winter. For example, we may be able to open our churches and halls to the community as safe, warm spaces during the daytime and/or the evenings.

I offer the following suggestion as a means for working together to offer practical support to struggling families. Each household will receive a £400 discount on their energy bills in six monthly payments during the winter. Some families will need this discount to pay their energy bills; others may find they only need some of this discount or can manage without it. Families able to spare some or all of their discount could add it to a fund from which families experiencing the greatest financial challenges could then access additional financial support.

A more detailed explanation of this suggestion will be sent to senior stewards to enable discussion in our churches. If we feel this suggestion would be valuable, I would be delighted to hear

from anyone who would like to participate in a small working group to explore the logistics.

May God bless us as, equipped and strengthened by the Holy Spirit, we seek to live to God's praise and glory in the name of Christ.

God bless.

Steve



Sylvester and Rachel Deigh in Sierra Leone



The Connexional 'Connexion' magazine for this summer features an article entitled 'Open to God's Spirit' about mission partners. You may remember Rachel and Sylvester Deigh as Croydon Circuit ministers and in particular Rachel being Christ Church's minister in the first decade of the 2000s. Here is a synopsis of what led them to travel to Sierra Leone and their current roles in the country.

Rachel read a book at the age of eight by the missionary Hudson Taylor which captured her imagination but during her 20 years of circuit ministry, her testimony became “You don't have to go to the other side of the world to tell people about Jesus”.

“We first offered as mission partners in 2008 following a sabbatical visit to Freetown but it was not God's time. However in 2018 we were encouraged to offer again.and although delayed by Covid, we found ourselves in Freetown. So here we are in God's good time.”

Although Sylvester was due to help the church with its training needs, he had to pick up a recently deceased minister's work on the Church's strategic plan, Rachel is working at the theological college at a time of change following the recent departure of the principal and vice principal.

They feel that the wait before they could be in Sierra Leone has better equipped them for the work God has for them and of course to his timescale.

Conference Business Digest

A report for local churches about the business of the 2022 Methodist Conference

Election and Induction of the President and Vice-President

On Saturday 25 June, the Revd Graham Thompson was elected and inducted as President of the Conference, and Anthony Boateng as Vice-President. In his Conference address, Mr Thompson focused on the theme for the year of The Greatest Commandment. Mr Boateng's address was entitled 'Revival: The Methodist Dream' and emphasised the need to revive the Wesleyan fire. You can read both addresses in full here: www.methodist.org.uk/presidential-addresses-2022

Reception into Full Connexion

During Conference worship, 20 presbyters and three deacons were received into Full Connexion on Sunday 26 June, along with four presbyters by transfer and two presbyters by reinstatement and transfer. Later that day, ordination services took place in four churches in the vicinity of Telford.

Methodist Homes (MHA)

The acting Chief Executive of MHA, Mr Dan Ryan, presented its report to the Conference, drawing attention to the considerable impact that Covid has had on residents, staff and families and the need to create connections with people in different ways. Mr Ryan thanked everyone for their support, care and compassion and said how this time is a significant moment for care, both in terms of staffing and funding. He said they will champion their sector and called on people to support their #FixCareForAll campaign, make links with local MHA services, consider becoming a rep and continue to pray for MHA and the work they do.

Marriage and relationships

The Conference received a Faith and Order Committee report on marriage and relationships. The Conference resolved that the 1992 Conference Statement on A Christian Understanding of Family Life, the

Single Person and Marriage should no longer have the status of a Conference Statement, bearing in mind the considerable changes in society and in the Church, the growth of understanding of human relationships and human sexuality, and the decisions that the Conference has made over the past thirty years. The Conference directed the Faith and Order Committee to bring a report on singleness to the 2024 Conference and to report to the 2025 Conference on whether any further work on marriage and relationships is required.

Local Lay-Pastors

Following the decisions of the 2021 Conference to establish the office of Local Lay-Pastor, the Conference adopted a set of competencies for the role. The Conference also adopted a new section of Standing Orders which define the office, making provision for the appointment of people to it, their training, support and accountability as well as termination of the appointment.

President and Vice-President designated for 2023-2024

The Conference designated the Revd Gill Newton to be President and Deacon Kerry Scarlett to be Vice-President of the Conference 2023/2024.

Appointments

The Conference made a number of appointments and reappointments, including: The Revd Sonia Hicks as Chair of the Methodist Council from 1 September 2022. The Revd Mark Rowland as Secretary of the Faith and Order Committee from 1 September 2022. The Revd Andrew Charlesworth as Chair for Wales Synod Cymru from 1 September 2023; the Revd Philip Gough as Chair for the Lancashire District from 1 September 2022; the Revd Loraine Mellor as Chair for the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly District from 1 September 2022; the Revd Dr Andrew Lunn as Chair for the Bolton and Rochdale District from 1 September 2022; the Revd Helen Cameron as Chair for the Nottingham and Derby District from 1 September 2022

This is not the whole Digest. The full document is available at www.methodist.org.uk/conference

Weekly Services and Meetings at Christ Church

09.15	Holy Communion (2 nd Sun)	(no service currently)	
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		
Tuesday			
19.00	Rangers (fortnightly)		
Thursday			
18.30	Guides and Brownies Combined Unit		
Minister		Revd Richard Lowson	TBC
Church Stewards			
Sunday morning services only →			
Sunday morning services only →			
Room Bookings			

Zoom links for Welcome Service on Thursday 1 Sept 2022, 19:30 –22:00

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87592479751?pwd=cFVFT1lpU01zc0xUSUR1NIN2SWxHZz09>

Meeting ID: 875 9247 9751

Passcode: 360649

One tap mobile

01314601196...87592479751#,,,,*360649# United Kingdom

+442034815237,,87592479751#,,,,*360649# United Kingdom

Meeting ID: 875 9247 9751

Passcode: 360649