



CONNEXION



Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 22 February

**The magazine of
Christ Church Methodist, Addiscombe
FEBRUARY 2023**

**Minister: Revd Richard Lowson - 07311 390636
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

FEBRUARY		
Sunday 10.30am	5	Morning Worship in Church and on Zoom - Rev Dr Leslie Griffiths
Sunday 10.30am	12	Racial Justice Sunday All Age Worship and Parade in Church and on Zoom – Revd Richard Lowson
Sunday 10.30am 5.00pm	19	Holy Communion in Church and on Zoom – Mrs Doreen Ridden Café Worship
Sunday 10.30am 4.00pm	26	Lent 1 Holy Communion – Revd Richard Lowson Messy Church

OPEN MEETING

Wed 8.00pm	8	Worship consultation at church
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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 19 February 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 said 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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FEBRUARY COFFEE MORNING AND FOODBANK COLLECTION

On Saturday 11 February from 10.30am-12 noon. Why not come along for a hot drink and a chat and maybe make a donation to the Salvation Army Food Bank. You'll be very welcome.



Welcome to the February 2023 edition. We hope you enjoy reading the magazine. Any suggestions to Fiona please 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 MARCH 2023 EDITION by **Sunday 19 February** by email to ccmamagazine@hotmail.com. Requests for email version to above address. Thanks as always to all contributors. *Editorial team*

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

We were so very sorry to hear of the deaths of several members of our congregation:

- On 22 December of Edith Lonsdale, who was an active member of our congregation when she was younger. Her funeral will take place at Christ Church on Tuesday 31 January at 9.30am. We thank God for Edith's long life.

- On 17 January of Elizabeth Beadle, who had attended church since birth and had been a member for a considerable time. Latterly she attended Relax and Create. We remember her brothers and nephew in our prayers and thank God for Elizabeth's life of dedication and care.

- On 21 January of Carl Szzvanowski who with his wife Sheila and when his health allowed, was a long-standing and regular member of our congregation. He and Sheila became members of Christ Church many years ago and he will be greatly missed. Sheila is in our prayers and we thank God for Carl's long life and service.

We remember in our prayers all who are grieving or unwell in body, mind or spirit. We also pray for those unable to get to church these days. We were pleased to hear that Barbara and Peter Langsdale are now both in the same care home in South Croydon. May all our friends know that they are in our prayers and feel the comfort of God at this time.

Please phone/send any family news to Fiona Assaly: 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.

CHRISTMAS CHEER FROM CHRIST CHURCH



The Reedham Children's Trust were delighted with the toys and monetary donations from our Gift Service in December. They were able to distribute the toys to families in need that they connect with via local schools. As invited by the trust, some of you specified toys or food vouchers to allocate monetary donations. £71 for food vouchers was collected and £70 for toys. You can see a certificate of thanks from the Trust on the Fellowship Hall noticeboard.

We raised £450 for NCH Action for Children across a number of Christmas Services or activities such as carol singing. Well done!

And this was all done with the usual Food Bank donations on the second Saturday of December too. Plus donations were made to the Circuit Shared Warmth Fund including £199 from the united service on New Year's Day.

Thanks everyone. Fantastic show of concern and Christmas Cheer and thanks to Gill for finding the Reedham Trust.

The Stewards

Relax and Create

**will be meeting on Saturday 4 February
then on the first Saturday of each 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)

Bleak and bright

(with a bow to Christina Rossetti's carol)

A New Year's begun, 2023,
What great things will be in store,
What special sights we'll see.



January was bleak,
With frost, cold wind and rain,
Waterproofing on our backs,
Downpours flowing down the drain.

In the bleak late winter,
Heavily rain did fall,
Earth was wet and windy,
Raincoats lined the hall.

But now we're moving into Feb,
The great month of my birth,
Spring will come with sunny days,
And plenty of time for mirth.

The future's rosy, let out a cheer,
And let's go forth, and have a jolly good year!

Bob Horne
Jan 15th 2023

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



CAFÉ WORSHIP

Our next meeting will be on

SUNDAY 19 FEBRUARY 2023 at 5pm

Led by Paul Parkinson

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

Revd Dr Leslie Griffiths is preaching at Christ Church on 5 Feb

The Revd Dr Leslie Griffiths, Lord Griffiths of Burry Port, will receive an honorary doctorate from the University of Roehampton at their graduation ceremony in January. He is former President of the Methodist Conference, Superintendent Minister of Wesley's Chapel and honorary Canon of St Paul's Cathedral. He is also a former Chair of the governing body of Southlands College.



For all ages together



26th February
Messy pancake party



4 – 5 p.m.

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

TONI SUFFOLK

Toni (Antoinette) Suffolk was known to some at Christ Church via ecumenical activities. She could be described as a whirlwind of provocation and enabling, driven by a deep faith and impressive organisational skills. For two or three years she was valiantly fighting health issues. The odds were increasingly against her and she passed away in December.

She is well known for bringing together and driving forward the Good Friday act of witness and dramatic recreation of the passion of Jesus outside the Alms Houses on North End in Croydon town centre. This she did for getting on 20 years. (The last one being in 2019 although she pulled together a visual re-enactment via YouTube in 2021.)

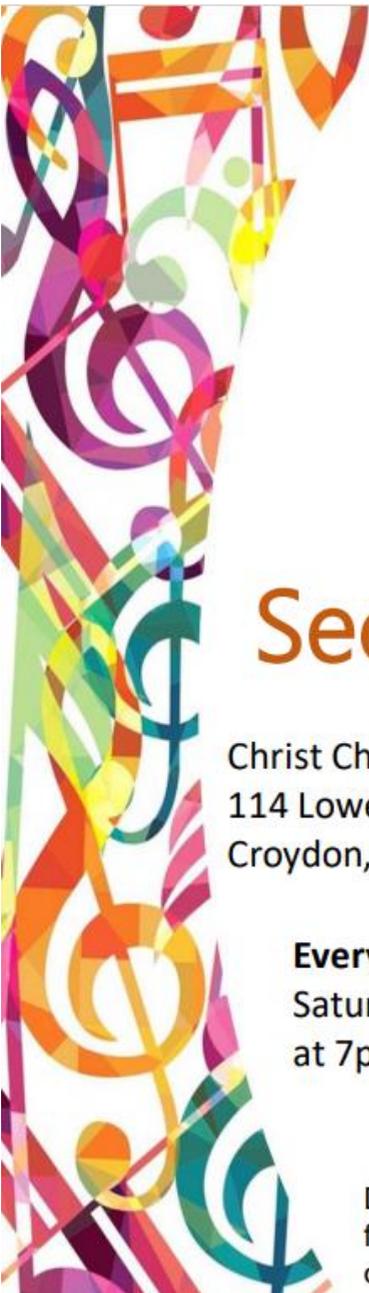
Through the Good Friday event, I got to know her well and met up from time to time, usually at her terraced cottage in the other worldly “Badger’s Hole” hamlet in the thickets and woods of Addington Hills. She was a special person with a huge presence and will be greatly missed. I attended her funeral in January at St Mary’s Canning Road which was a moving and yet remarkably uplifting event.

Andrew Thynne

ENCOUNTERING GOD IN THE BIBLE.



The next two bible studies will be on Fridays 17 February and 17 March from 10.30am-12 noon in the Fellowship Hall at church led by Revd Pam Clews, on the book of Job. All are very welcome.



Occasional
Voices
presents

A Free Concert of Sacred & Secular Music

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

Everyone Welcome
Saturday 18th March
at 7p.m.

Donations welcome, in aid of
fundraising for the ministry and
outreach of the church community.



High Tide Story

Black teeth curled without menace
marking the line of a ship;
why stop and look at this
lifeless remains of a journey machine;
all of her doings are done,
even vandals ignore her;
why do I stop and look.

I am glad that these fingers remain;
wild flowers nod their greetings to
these tough enduring markers;
positioned at the highest flood,
rigging stripped then mast, deck and
cabin gone, belly full of silt;
yet size and plan still clear.

This Thames Barge, sailing work horse,
flat bottomed, shallow draught; at home
in narrow creek and open coastal seas;
how many waves have you parted,
how many cargoes delivered;
were you storm driven into this corner,
damaged and left to rot.

Or were you a grand old lady creaking
and leaking unable to face the
shipwright's bill; floated up gently on
the highest high tide for salvage of all
moveable things and quietly left, a
collection of memories anchored in
silt, lapped over, ignored on this shore.

There is no song in your rigging nor
the rhythm of slapping ropes, no steady
pull of canvas or rippling wavelets at
your bow; you rest alone with all your
secrets and the ghost of a home
for skipper and boy
With past spray and mists for company.

Rex

February - a time of hope



It might start out cold and in the past there was almost always some snow. I always feel optimistic when February starts. The days are noticeably longer. When I was working, I left the office after work in daylight – what joy!

One year, Carl and I went to Bournemouth in February with our bikes and stayed at a favourite hotel – always warm when we got back, with a great meal. One day we went across to Studland on the Isle of Purbeck using the chain ferry. One house was on a corner high above the beach and we saw on a large bank a sight we had to stop for – it was completely covered with snowdrops, always a harbinger of the spring soon to be with us.

In February we often spot early crocuses, usually the purple ones coming first. Looking on verges along the road, wild flowers are just beginning to show signs of hope that the season are changing as ever. Days will lengthen, temperatures will rise, baby lambs and will be born and chicks will hatch.

Lent often starts in February – again a sign of hope for us all.

Sheila Szzvanowski

Pancake Day Word Scramble

Unscramble the Pancake Day themed words and join them to the pictures on the right. We've done the first one for you!

napacke

pancake

nap

blow

uprys

gruas

sgeg

orulf

kilm

pilf

melon

turbet

nopso





Methodist
relief and
development

All We Can's Malawi partner, The Eagles,' church mobilisation process is a sustainable approach as it increases the likelihood of lasting impact. Working with local structures of churches and communities, it empowers women and men in the community to use existing assets and skills and builds their capacity, creating a mind-set change away from dependency towards a sense of collective responsibility and collective confidence. See two examples below:

Improved environment

Energy-efficient stoves: The churches at Kachenyu are promoting the use of energy efficient stoves in order to reduce the demand for firewood and conserve trees. They are also encouraging reforestation and working with community leaders to ensure forests are cared for. Group Village Headman Chizumba Ngulube, a powerful traditional leader, praised the churches' work, grateful that people are using less firewood and saving women time searching for it.

Tree-planting: frequent floods erode and degrade the soil in Malawi, making it impossible to get good harvests. Trees not only anchor the soil, but also provide a physical barrier to flood water that protects crops and houses. Many churches have taken action to protect local forests and plant more trees. Just these three churches have planted nearly 20,000 trees by working with their communities:

- In Lusangazi, the church worked with the community and forest department and planted over 10,000 seedlings. They distributed them to 100 households within the area, six local churches and the community forest to care for.
- In Kasungu, Ntunthama church raised a nursery of 3000 trees to plant.

- Kaphatenga Living Waters Church successfully advocated to the government for 5000 tree seedlings which they planted with their community to protect homes from wind and farms from erosion. The church also planted additional fruit trees.

Suffering from floods every year, Benga Living Waters Church decided to use Eagles' training to map their local areas with their community, identify the places most at-risk and take action together. Church members went around their community helping people to assess whether their houses would be able to withstand flood-waters and wind in the coming rainy season. The church repaired the house of an elderly person and mobilised the community to improve the drainage system.

Unlike past years, in the next rainy season, no houses collapsed. Delighted, they now do this every year.



Jimmy Likagwa, Church Mobilisation Coordinator, Eagles.

Improved health

Families in Chilowosi village have *never* had clean water. From the first settlers in 1949 to the 400 people that now live there, they have been forced to rely on a stream – unpredictable water levels and high risk of disease. Then, trained by Eagles, two determined women from a local church invested days of their own time and money to confront corrupt government officials and bring water to their entire village.

Ezelina Bikausi had been thrilled to hear in a local development planning meeting that the government had chosen her village of Chilowosi to receive a borehole! It seemed like a dream come true – after 70 years of battling diseases and water shortages, they would finally be able to provide for their families! She eagerly awaited the promised borehole... and waited... and still waited.

One year on, patience evaporated and Ezelina decided to act. She remembered from Eagles' training that God calls His people to seek justice for their communities. So she and a friend went to ask the village chief why there had been the delay. He told them to wait, but Ezelina answered: "We can't wait any more! A year has passed – something must be wrong."

So the women went to the group village headman, responsible for several villages including their own, and received the same response. Their next attempt was the Traditional Authority who claimed to be unable to help and told them to consult the District Commissioner (DC), head of the local government. The DC referred them to the water board, who gave them the contact of a specific official. All the while, these two women had been using their scarce money for transport and losing time that they could have spent on their many other tasks. Their ordeal continued. The official ignored their calls for days, claiming to be too busy. Running out of options, the women kept talking to whoever they could, desperate to find answers.

Their persistence paid off. The official, worried by the rumours going around about him blocking Chilowosi village from having a borehole, finally asked to meet the women. They confronted him directly, asking why the government money set aside for a borehole in their village had not resulted in anything and explaining their desperate need simply and plainly. At first, he was evasive, but the women assured him that they would keep pushing until they uncovered the truth. They told him, "We are like mourners. You can't stop us crying. If you gave us our water in the first place, things would not have gone down this way." Reluctantly, the official revealed that, in a corrupt deal, the Traditional Authority had diverted the borehole to another community. Terrified of the story spreading, the official promised that the next time they received funding for boreholes, Chilowosi village would be first.

Thanks to two women's courage, tenacity and refusal to remain silent about injustice, their entire village have fresh, clean water! Ezelina's joy is unbounded. She is so grateful to the training that gave her the confidence to act: "As a facilitator, there are a number of ways of solving a problem. Some problems have to be solved by us doing something. Others need to be solved by advocacy. And this one needed that path."



LENT SPECIAL

*Find the words below in grid
Look up, down and diagonally*



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

STRUGGLE

DESERT

PLACES

FORTY DAYS

POWER

SILENCE

FAST

TESTED

DEVIL

APART

PRAY

A NEW YEAR UPDATE FROM CATHERINE PORTER IN JAPAN

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! I hope you had a blessed and refreshing Christmas/and/or/ post-Christmas! I've been grateful for the quiet days I've had since finishing last year's concert ministry and It's been good to relax and also work through The Annual Great Examen. If you haven't come across it before, it's a set of reflective questions that can be found online which help you think about how the last year has been spiritually, vocationally, relationally, physically and emotionally. As I looked back through my journals for 2022, I could see how it has been a year of finishing the transition to Sendai. At the beginning of the year, I was still unclear as to how ministry might work with Japan's response to covid. I hadn't yet found my role in a new place. Now I can look back and see that God brought me faithfully through that time of transition. **I am praying that 2023 will be a year of stable fruitfulness.**

Autumn to Christmas was a season of many concerts. At the beginning of December, I worked with a church in Matsumigaoka, Tokyo. They wanted to do a concert specifically aimed at young children and their parents. Around fifty years ago, a number of Japanese people believed in Jesus and became the church in Matsumigaoka. As the years have gone on, the average age of the church members has considerably increased, leaving them with only around 3 children currently attending. Their desire was to see young people and families coming into the church and coming to faith. So, even though they didn't have any contacts with young families in the area, they decided to put on this event.

18 families (49 people) came and only one was Christian. I felt like this was a huge breakthrough for this church. We worked together and were able to share the Gospel with people who hadn't heard it before. The church now has the opportunity to do follow-up work with those who left their contact details.

The following week, I went to my old town, Miyako. It was lovely to meet with my old teammates, David and Tomo Robison, and also to meet with the newest addition to their family, 1y/o Evangeline. Since I left Miyako, the church plant has started renting a building rather than meeting at the Robison's house. It's in the centre of town. There is a clear sign outside so passers-by know it is a church and know that they are welcome. The Robison's are doing regular outreach through English classes at the new building. For the harp concert, they had booked the new Town Hall, built after the tsunami. Tomo told me that when they tried to

book the hall, the town was reluctant to rent it to them as they don't want 'religious' events and proselytising happening on town property. But, when they heard it was me who would be doing the concert, they changed their minds! The person in charge had been to a concert I had done a few years ago in Miyako, and because of that, they trusted that the Miyako Church Plant are safe people to rent to. There was amazing attendance at the concert itself. I knew 90% of the faces. Many were relief work contacts from the Cafes that I used to run, and which the Robison's are still doing. Then there was my old landlady. My next-door neighbour. The lady from social services who used to take the room bookings for the Cafes. The lady who I taught basket-weaving to. It was incredibly special to be able to share Christmas with these dear ones. While there were opportunities to share the Gospel with these people in the past, I was glad of this fresh chance to share again through the format of a Christmas concert.

Over the Christmas period, I was able to invite different people to church outreaches. Mrs Tateishi and her daughter attended Sunday worship at New Life Church when I was preaching and playing there. Mrs Hino came to a concert and came when I preached at my Sendai church on 22nd January. Mrs Shimizu, who I have met outside my house when putting the rubbish out a couple of times, brought her husband and daughter to the concert at my church. A lot of the time, as I partner with other churches and travel for ministry, I don't get to see the small things like this: things like these individuals taking tiny steps of openness towards God. It is a blessing to me when I do get to see.

Please could you continue to pray for all the seeds that were sown over the Christmas period in the different churches I visited? Please pray that those who were challenged will take the opportunity to find out more, that they may have continued contact with Christians around them, and that God will continue to draw them to Himself.

Going forward, I am travelling in order to work with Sanriku Hope Church in Iwate. This Church Plant is about half-an-hour South of Miyako, so it is a place I have partnered with many times in the past. It will be good to work with them again. **My prayer is that the outreach will help those who attend to move towards God, to be open to what He is saying and how He is calling them to Himself.** On the 28th and 29th January, the LifeLine television programme recorded last year was broadcast on national television. Half the programme is worship on the harp, and half is a message preached by Pastor Iwai. **Please pray that the programme will reach people's hearts and challenge them.**

Love and prayers, Catherine

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)		
16.00	Messy Church (4 th 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	07311 390636
Church Stewards			
<p>Sunday morning services only →</p> <p>Sunday morning services only →</p>			
Room Bookings			