

Addington Methodist Magazine

April 2024



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Building bridges

**Rev
Stephen
day**

I wish you a blessed Easter. Easter Day will mark my last day in this circuit before my three-month sabbatical. I am grateful to the Methodist Church for the gift of sabbaticals in which ministers are released from their usual responsibilities.

Sabbaticals are valuable opportunities for rest, recreation and time with family and friends. However, we are also expected to pursue a

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programme of study, research, work, or experience.

I plan to engage in a study of bridges in London, hence the photo of Tower Bridge.

We will all have crossed many bridges during our lives, but we may not have paid too much attention to them.

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This realisation has led me to ponder the nature of bridges. Thankfully, London offers many examples of bridges to study - from the latest incarnation of London Bridge, a crossing point of the Thames for more than 2,000 years, to the pedestrian Millennium Bridge.

I intend to explore several aspects of bridges, such as:

- The relationship between

purpose and design.

- The cost of building bridges, human and economic.
- The impact which bridges make.
- Bridges as means of inclusion and exclusion.
- Changing context and needs.
- Maintenance.
- Bridges no longer fit for purpose.

I will relate these aspects to actual bridges in London and my experience in ministry. The purpose is to develop a theology of bridges.

I hope to offer an evening in July when we can gather by the Thames, look at a few bridges together and reflect on what has emerged during my sabbatical. More details will be shared later.

I will be praying for you during my sabbatical, and your prayers for me will also be welcome.

God bless.

Rev Stephen Day

A Budget response

Emma Ann Hughes

Leaders from across the Methodist Church have responded to the Chancellor's announcements made in the Budget on 6 March.

They have highlighted the lack of acknowledgement of people struggling against poverty, and the lack of difference the announcements will make to the communities they live and work alongside.

Paul Morrison, policy adviser for the Joint Public Issues Team, said: "A 2p cut in National Insurance offers the bottom fifth of households around £350m a year, but the top fifth of households will receive over 10 times more – more than £4bn.

"In a country where 14.4 million people are held back by poverty and where one million children are growing up experiencing destitution – a form of very deep poverty we had all but eradicated in the UK – the choice to focus money on the best-off households is the wrong one.

"Today, five out of every six households receiving Universal Credit (the main benefit designed to support low-income families), are going without essentials.

"The six-month extension of the Household Support Fund, which provides funds to councils to help families struggling to meet their basic needs, is welcome, but it is a temporary measure that will barely touch the sides of the problem. A decent welfare system would at the very least ensure that everyone is able to afford the essentials.

"The Churches are supporting the Let's End Poverty movement, because with political willingness we can turn the tide on rising poverty in the UK."

Low-income communities

Leaders from across the Methodist Church who work alongside low-income communities also offered their initial reflections on the Budget announcements.

Rev Neil Johnson, pioneer minister for Street Banquet in Birmingham, said: "I work alongside the street community, particularly those in Birmingham City Centre - those living with the daily injustice of homelessness.

"This includes rough sleepers, hostels, and houses of multiple occupancy residents and tenants in insecure and inadequate



Image: UK Parliament

Jeremy Hunt delivers his Budget Speech in Parliament

housing. These are people, many of whom are receiving benefits, but also those who are working in poorly paid work and receiving very low incomes.

“This Budget has done those people no favour at all. In fact, quite the opposite. Jeremy Hunt [chancellor] said that his Budget was a Budget for long-term growth. And yet we’re living in a society where many, many people are in immediate need.

“The future was already bleak for the street community but now, after this Budget, it seems even bleaker.

“This Budget was not meant for the members of the street community, people who already feel disenfranchised because they have been disowned by society.

“So, what will make a difference? A truly just tax system, solving the housing crisis and long-term investment in public services.”

Winnie Baffoe, director of engagement and influence for South London Mission, said: “The Budget refers to fiscal drag, a recovery of finances, but not to people’s lives.

“The negative accumulative effects of inadequate housing, the lack of investment in mental health and reduced funding in education is not spoken openly about. We cannot recoup the loss of time and the impact that has had on people’s lives.

“What we need is a Budget

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that tells the story of the social contracts of housing, education, and health.

“Children and young people are heirs of the past 10 years, the suffering children of the present and makers of the future. What does this Budget tell us that they have to build on?”

Refugees

Deacon Jenny Jones, based at Methodist Central Hall, Manchester, said: “This Budget makes no additional provision for refugees and asylum seekers, and actually blames them for the problems the countries are having.

“In recent months, the government has improved the speed with which applications are processed for those who are looking for the right to remain and that’s good news in some ways. But I don’t think we’ve really talked about how, once leave to remain is granted, their benefits, anything they have like

their accommodation, all stops within a few days.

“I think this Budget should have been addressing that, because these people are becoming homeless, their mental health is being destroyed.

“These people become dependent on food banks, clothing banks, warm spaces, the places that churches provide. But this government and this Budget have forgotten that these are real people with real emotions.

“The people that I have met are wonderful people who would love to contribute to this country. But they’re being held back by the systems. And this government doesn’t seem to care.”

Helen Pearce, social justice enabler at Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Methodist District, said: “For the 28,000 people waiting on the home choice list there has been no announcements of a plan to enable people to be able to access long term homes and accommodation for so many families and children.”

Let’s End Poverty

The Methodist Church is part of the Let’s End Poverty movement, calling on political leaders to make tackling poverty a core priority ahead

of the next General Election. In response to the Budget, individuals and groups are invited to write to their MP to ask how they will raise

poverty up the agenda.

You can find your MP and send them a personalised email at: www.letsendpoverty.co.uk/action/

Hats off for Rev Griffiths

The younger members of Addington Methodist Church played a key role in two services in March.

Rev Leslie Griffiths led an all-age worship service at the start of March, encouraging the AMC congregation to consider the many hats they wear.

Rev Griffiths also brought in a selection of head gear, including a bucket hat for gardening, graduation mortarboard, flat cap, Boys Brigade hat, plus a trilby, that church members got to try on for size.



Above and below: the children try on Rev Leslie's different hats

Meanwhile, later in the month Junior Church members created bouquets

of daffodils and handed them out in church as part of AMC's Mothering Sunday celebration.

Caryl Rapps explained that the origins of the term lie in the Middle Ages, when children who had left their families to work in domestic service were allowed to go to their home – or “mother” – church.

So initially, the “Mothering” aspect of the occasion had no connection to the way mothers are celebrated today, she said.



April worship

Email addmethzoom@gmail.com to get a link to worship from home via Zoom.

10:30am Morning Services (unless stated)

7 Apr	All-age worship with Local Preacher Alberta Larkai-Doherty
14 Apr	Sunday Service with Rev Richard Lowson and Junior Church
21 Apr	Sunday Service including Holy Communion with Rev Richard Lowson and Junior Church
28 Apr	Sunday Service with Local Preacher Fraser Logue

Tea and Coffee After Sunday Service Helpers

7 Apr	Cathy Oldham, Cecelia Essiam, Margaret Ansong
14 Apr	Jenny Halliday, Angela Mills and volunteers needed
21 Apr	Edward Larby, Helen, and Alan Williams
28 Apr	Jane Colvert, Appolonia Madinyenya, Tatiana Tivoli

Dates for your diary

All events take place at Addington Methodist Church unless otherwise stated.

Tue 2 Apr & 16 Apr **2pm to 4pm** Stitch & Craft Club. Coffee and biscuits served for £1 a meeting. Bring a project or share in learning something new. Contact Cathy Oldham: catherine.m.oldham@gmail.com.

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

Sat 6 Apr **10am to 1.30pm** Coffee morning and Food Bank collection.

Tue 9 Apr & 23 April **2pm to 4pm** Tuesday Club. Fun and fellowship with guest speakers, quizzes and other activities, concluding with refreshments. Contact Cathy Oldham.

Tue 16 Apr **3.30pm to 5pm** Messy Church. Crafts, stories and praise open to children of all ages plus their parents and grandparents.

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“ We're living in a society where many, many people are in immediate need

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>> Everything you need to know on how to vote in the upcoming local elections

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Croydon goes to the polls

Croydon residents will head to the polls with the rest of London on Thursday 2 May to vote in the Mayor of London and Greater London Assembly elections.

To vote in the elections residents must be registered to vote by 11.59pm on Tuesday 16 April. The council is encouraging anyone not registered to vote at their current address to do so

before the deadline.

The quickest way to register to vote is to apply online, it takes just five minutes and all you need is your National Insurance number.

You must be 18 or over on polling day, and a British, Irish, Commonwealth or European Union citizen to vote in elections.

If you have recently moved home, changed

your name or nationality, please check that you are registered and update your details.

Voters in England are now required to show photo ID at a polling station and will not be allowed to vote without it.

To find out what photo ID is acceptable or to apply for a free voter ID certificate, visit www.croydon.gov.uk/voterID.

West Wickham centre stays shut

West Wickham Leisure Centre will remain closed for the coming weeks as Bromley Council prepares for some initial propping work to be undertaken.

The propping work will involve installing structural supports to the building, which will remain closed during this period.

A further update is expected in the coming weeks.

Bromley Council closed the



centre after structural issues were identified in the plant area.

The potential to bring forward the multi-million pound

improvement works planned to go ahead later this year are now being considered as part of the possible solutions.

Council ponders Purley pool planning proposal

Croydon Council has received a planning application from developers Polaska for a new leisure centre on the Purley Pool site and regeneration of the surrounding area.

The council has been in discussions with Polaska, the long-term leaseholders, to bring forward their plans for the site.

The planning application from Polaska includes a new leisure centre and a later living housing scheme, with a new public square with improved access from the station to High Street to help regenerate the town centre and boost the local economy.

The leisure centre plans include a 25m six-lane main pool, training pool, gym, fitness suite and studio space, as well as a café.

The plan will be considered by the council as the local



Perry: pool is missed

planning authority and the Greater London Authority as a referable application.

Jason Perry, executive mayor of Croydon, said: "I pledged to bring a pool back to the heart of Purley and this is a welcome step towards making that happen.

"I know that Purley Pool has been much missed by residents and a new leisure centre will help make it easier for local people of all ages to enjoy healthy, active lifestyles."

Community contacts

5th Selsdon & Addington Scouts Pinewood Seahorses

Contact: David Steeds
Email: davidsteeds@hotmail.com
pinewoodseahorses@hotmail.com

Addington Methodist Lunch Club

Contact: Jenny Harms
Email: jenharms2110@gmail.com

6th Addington Rainbows & Brownies 1st Addington Guides

Contact: Andrea McCallum
Email: ville13th2nd@virginmedia.com

Lemoine School of Dancing Exercise classes

Contact: Fiona Avenalle
Phone: 020 86570602

And finally . . .

Food for thought

“For the mountains shall depart
And the hills be removed,
But My kindness shall not depart
from you,
Nor shall My covenant of peace
be removed,”
Says the Lord, who has mercy on
you.

Isaiah 54:10

Next time ...

- Information about services
- May issue available last Sunday in April

Don't forget

Email your news and activities to addingtonmethodistmagazine@gmail.com or message us via Facebook and post tagging our page @AddingtonMethodistChurch.