



CONNEXION



*May the Holy Spirit
be with you*

**The magazine of
Christ Church Methodist, Addiscombe
MAY 2020**

**Minister: Revd Soon Cheol Choi 020 8654 5481
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www.christchurchmeth.org.uk

*Part of the Croydon Methodist Circuit and a member of
Churches Together in Addiscombe*

WORSHIP AND DIARY

WORSHIP		MAY
Sunday 11.00am	3	11.00am Morning worship on Zoom
Sunday 11.00am	10	CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 11.00 am Morning worship on Zoom
Sunday 10.30am	17	CHURCH ANNIVERSARY 10.30 am Revd Paul Weary (see below) Via church website
Sunday 10.30am 5.00pm	24	ALDERSGATE SUNDAY Stephen Day's act of worship on YouTube Cafe Worship via Zoom
Sunday 10.30am	31	PENTECOST Stephen Day's act of worship on YouTube

As the lockdown continues, our church and circuit have been innovative in reaching members of our congregation in a number of ways. In addition to the above services Revd Stephen Day, our superintendent, continues to lead worship via YouTube every Sunday mornings at 10.30am (or for later viewing):

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjsqXYbmrBE9GD4hNOUVEjg?feature=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fchannel%2FUCjsqXYbmrBE9GD4hNOUVEjg%3Ffeature%3Dem-lsb-owner>

Also on Sunday mornings, Wesley's Chapel has live streaming at 11.00am and there is also a service on BBC1 at around 10.45am.

There is also our Keeping in Touch sheet which is sent out by Pauline by email and sent or delivered to those without email.

Revd Choi led a wonderfully inspiring service on Easter Sunday which was available from the church website and was sent by CD to those without internet access. Thanks to all those who took part and who organised this service.

For our church anniversary on Sunday 17 May, Revd Paul Weary, a previous minister, will have recorded a service and very sincere thanks to him and Adrian Pickett for bringing the service together in a format which will be accessible for us all. This will be available in audio and video and 'go live' on the church website on 17 May or be available on a CD or DVD.

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Welcome to the May edition. This is a very different issue taking account of Covid 19. 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 by **Sunday, 24 May** either by email to ccmamagazine@hotmail.com or by phone to Fiona Assaly on 8654 1296. Requests for email version to above address. Thanks as always to all contributors.

Editorial team

OUR MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear friends,

While I am preparing this letter, I hear that the government has made a decision of expanding lockdown for three more weeks. Well, by the time you read this the situation may be changed again. Anyway, we all are experiencing a very strange life, with minimum contact or strictly no contact. Some people may appreciate this time for their internal, spiritual growth. Others, for the unusually long family time. Yet, most of us, I think, may find it difficult as we see no definite exit and have never experienced before this kind of restriction, such as isolation or social distancing. Is this a new way of disciplining ourselves in the 21st century? I am not sure. But, while we are grumbling about the measures imposed on us and struggling to stay at home on a beautiful day, we need to be aware that the real world is unbelievably suffering, and hundreds people are dying every day. And we shouldn't forget that some frontline workers are facing extreme stress and dangers. What are we to do, then?

You may have forgotten how we celebrated Easter some weeks ago, as it was quite different from what we usually do. But Easter stories continue and actually will be completed through Ascension (21st May), and then we will be celebrating one of the exciting events in the Church history, that is, Pentecost (31st May). It is exciting, not only because the disciples experienced the mysterious power of the Holy Spirit, but also, and more importantly, with the help of that power, they started to form a new faith community, so called, the 'Church'. But, here, we need to look back and see why Jesus had to stay with them forty more days before his ascension. One of the reasons would be that they needed to be reminded of the meaning and reality of resurrection, which means they needed an extra lesson for forty days, if you like. Having witnessed his resurrection again and again, they were

able to commit themselves to a new faith community. As for this matter of building up a new community, the first few chapters of Acts give us some brief pictures of their lives. What seems clear is that they were a 'learning community, a praying community, and a sharing community'. They met every day for learning the Scripture, for praying together, and for breaking bread together. And, moreover, what strikes me is the way of their sharing. In Acts 2.44, it says, "they had everything in common, and gave to anyone as he had need". It seems that their sharing and generosity were so radical and so practical that we couldn't even imitate, particularly during this present restriction. But, what we should notice here is that they didn't shy away from being a community, the church, despite the hostile circumstances.

We, as the Church, are facing a new challenge, as we are asked not to congregate, which seems quite opposite to the principle of our faith. But, what we need to remember is that Church is not just about congregating but more about communicating, sharing, and supporting each other in any circumstance. As we are going through this unprecedented pandemic crisis, I am sure we can find a new way of being 'CHURCH' as we try to meet the needs of others in our community.

Every blessing,
Rev. SC Choi.

DAILY HOPE PHONE LINE

The Church of England has launched a free phone line available 24 hours a day featuring music, prayers and reflections as well as a full worship service. Telephone: 0800 804 8044.

FAMILY NEWS



As we continue to remember in our prayers all those affected by Covid-19 and of course our NHS and other keyworkers, there is some good news to thank God for:

We send our love and celebrate with Carron and Rosemary Dalrymple whose Pearl Wedding anniversary was on 16 April.
With Amanda Parkinson whose 40th birthday was on 28 April.
With Sarah and Mick Timms whose Silver Wedding anniversary will be on 17 May.

Our love and best wishes go to Rosie Tompsett who moved into accommodation at London Bridge on 20 April so she can easily travel to St George's Hospital where she is working as a nurse and to James Haslam as he starts his new job in the next few weeks.

Congratulations to George Parkinson who has been successful in being accepted at Oasis Academy Ryelands, the same school as older sister Sarah attends. A great relief to Amanda and Paul.

Janet Houghton who is known to many of us and now lives in Cambridge sends her good wishes to all her friends.

We remember those we know whose hospital treatment is affected by the Covid crisis and assure them of our prayers.

Please tell/send any family news to Fiona Assaly: 020 8654 1296 or bingham144@hotmail.com. We really want to make sure our prayers are offered for all our friends. Do remember the prayer chain – again, 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.

BEATITUDES

FOR A GLOBAL PANDEMIC

BLESSED ARE THOSE
WHO STAY INDOORS



FOR THEY HAVE
PROTECTED OTHERS

BLESSED ARE THE
UNEMPLOYED AND THE
SELF-EMPLOYED



FOR THEIR NEED OF
GOD IS GREAT

BLESSED ARE THE
CORNER SHOPKEEPERS



FOR THEY ARE THE
PURVEYORS OF SCARCE
THINGS

BLESSED ARE THE DELIVERY
DRIVERS AND THE POSTAL
WORKERS



FOR THEY ARE THE
BRINGERS OF ESSENTIAL
THINGS

BLESSED ARE THE HOSPITAL
WORKERS; THE AMBULANCE CREWS,
THE DOCTORS, THE NURSES, THE CARE
ASSISTANTS, AND THE CLEANERS



FOR THEY STAND BETWEEN US AND
THE GRAVE, AND THE KINGDOM OF
HEAVEN IS SURELY THEIRS

BLESSED ARE THE
CHECKOUT WORKERS



FOR THEY HAVE PATIENCE AND
FORTITUDE IN THE FACE OF
OVERWORK AND FRUSTRATION

BLESSED ARE THE
REFUSE COLLECTORS



FOR THEY WILL SEE
GOD DESPITE THE
MOUNTAINS OF WASTE

BLESSED ARE THE
TEACHERS



FOR THEY REMAIN
STEADFAST AND
CONSTANT IN
DISTURBING TIMES

BLESSED ARE THE CHURCH
WORKERS; THE DEACONS,
PRIESTS AND BISHOPS



FOR THEY ARE A COMFORTING
PRESENCE IN A HURTING
WORLD AS THEY CONTINUE TO
SIGNPOST TOWARDS GOD

BLESSED ARE THE SINGLE
PARENTS.



FOR THEY ARE COPING
ALONE WITH THEIR
RESPONSIBILITIES AND
THERE IS NO RESPIRE

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO
ARE ALONE.



FOR THEY ARE CHILDREN OF
GOD AND WITH HIM THEY
WILL NEVER BE LONELY

BLESSED ARE THE
BEREAVED.



FOR WHOM THE WORST HAS
ALREADY HAPPENED. THEY
SHALL BE COMFORTED

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO
ARE ISOLATED WITH THEIR
ABUSERS



FOR ONE DAY - WE PRAY -
THEY WILL KNOW SAFETY

BLESSED ARE ALL DURING THIS TIME WHO HAVE PURE HEARTS;
ALL WHO STILL HUNGER AND THIRST FOR JUSTICE; ALL WHO
WORK FOR PEACE AND WHO MODEL MERCY



MAY YOU KNOW COMFORT. MAY YOU KNOW CALM. AND MAY THE
GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, AND THE LOVE OF GOD, AND
THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, BE WITH US ALL. AMEN

TEXT: JAYNE MANFREDI

CartoonChurch.com



CHRIST CHURCH

All ages welcome
for an informal hour of
Worship and Fellowship

SUNDAYS at 5.00pm

PLEASE NOTE NEW ARRANGEMENTS

See weekly Keeping in Touch sheet for updates

**SUNDAY 24 MAY Wesley Day
led by Wendy Thompson**

We are not able to worship on church premises at the moment due to the continuing Coronavirus lockdown but we haven't stopped worshipping. We are continuing to explore how to do this online, having used Facebook and Zoom so far.

It is a good opportunity for lots of people to attend from their sofas and take part remotely. Some people who are not in Croydon have joined us, and we were also joined in April by some from other churches in the Croydon Circuit .

Wendy Thompson

HOLIDAY CLUB 2020

We have reluctantly taken the decision to cancel this summer's Holiday Club at Christ Church. We didn't feel it was appropriate to recruit volunteers or undertake planning when it is so unclear what the situation will be in July. Once social distancing rules are lifted we will look at our future plans.

Gill Haslam



Heartfelt thanks to the volunteers from our own church who are helping to support the church in a number of ways during this lockdown. It's very much appreciated by all who are benefitting from their loving care.

Thank you to our pastoral visitors who are keeping in touch with their group members during this time of isolation.

The Keeping in Touch sheet is much appreciated by all and very many thanks to all who contribute to it and to Pauline for producing it and sending it out to us by email.

We hear that Ocado have been delivering fruit and vegetables unexpectedly to some members of our community. A great help when so many people are self-isolating.

The Way I See Freedom

Loss of freedom is on many people's minds at the moment. We rationalise and accept our lot, but isolation highlights positions on the ladder between fortune and misfortune.

For those without jobs and money freedom is a far off idea. In former times the out of place looks of shame on those needing food banks must now be more widespread as food, hopefully, comes to their doors.

In general, feelings of freedom have closed in. 'Freedom from', especially for the needy is uppermost in prayer-time and action; while 'freedom to' only opens when food and accommodation needs are more settled. Some parks in Croydon are unlocked, or unfenced, which enables those without gardens much needed relief, yet fresh air is not a substitute for food on the table.

'Freedom to' thinking enables me to see my more privileged place. Freedom and struggle can be paired so, perhaps, building a routine can play a liberating part. Many routines grow almost unconsciously. Without simple routines life would be chaotic but structured days give freedom. Of course, this is how parents talk and how military life and institutional life is managed.

Yet private structures can also free up creative thinking and action. From our weekly, noisy, Thursday applause comes more and more community thinking and action. (Though in the lives of all NHS staff and Care workers dedication replaces all thoughts of freedom.) Neighbours are talking. We are getting to know each other way past our usual reticence, and willing neighbours are going well out of their way to support lock-downer's needs. Between the desperation of the crisis needy, and the dedication of the committed carers, is the chance for creative thinking and action.

Routines can be a loose form of discipline and these allow new thinking. A poem composed within verses encourages creative expansion; a regular task, at a certain time each day, encourages progress and completion; these are simple examples.

When I retired I was suddenly liberated from the obligations of work. Choosing to set up a substitute, and often crowded routine, seemed liberating. Now, in our crisis is the invitation of a modified routine. It is not all simple, and I am a privileged chap, but can it not be that for some, the loss of freedom opens other important roads, or is this just the musings of an old man?

Rex

COVID WINTER



It started slowly,
Like the first leaves in autumn.
First one, then two, then three at once,
And then a flurry.
Suddenly all the plans I had made were gone.
The calendar stood bare,
Like a winter tree.
The people I loved – isolated.
The routine I knew – decimated.
The pattern of my life – changed, almost unrecognisable.
“I know the plans I have for you” says the Lord,
But I want my plans.
I want what I thought I would have,
The meetings, the people and the places.

Spring is in the air,
But it feels like winter.
An eerie, quiet winter,
A frightening, Narnian winter,
With no Christmas to brighten the days.
But a stopping, waiting,
Worrying, questioning winter:
When will this end?
Will the world be the same after?
Who will I be when it is over?

**Then I remember
That despite appearances
Winter is not just waiting.
It is recharging,
Strengthening,**



Preparing
For new life, and abundant growth.
For the beauty of flowers
And the miracle of birth.

And I remember that in the darkness of Good Friday
The disciples despaired
Believing that the world as they knew it
Was over.
And it was.
But what came next was joy,
Transformation
A new life
A new mission.
The old and familiar was gone,
The new was infinitely better.

This “winter” feels hard
But I will give it to God
Trusting in His promise
Of hope and renewal.
Looking to Easter – whenever it comes
Believing that in God’s time, not my time
Life will be renewed.



Thanks to Malcolm and Beth Holmes for sharing this

LOCKDOWN IS A TIME TO....

Listen to God's voice and reflect
Obey his voice and his teaching
Call on God's name and be calm
Know what is the purpose of all this
Dwell in his presence, do not panic
Offer a prayer for everyone's safety
Wait and be patient. This too will pass
Nurture our personal relationship with him.

Thanks to Mary Chambers for sharing this reflection



JOHN WESLEY'S RULES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

ORIGINAL VERSION

by John Wesley

Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can.

UPDATED VERSION

Written during the coronavirus
lockdown in 2020 - author unknown

Avoid all the people you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
At all the times you can,
As long as ever you can!

Thanks to Wendy Thompson for sharing this

DO YOU REMEMBER?

Do you remember that Spring, mum?
The one where we learned to dance?
We had loads of time together, mum,
I learned lots about flowers and plants!



Do you remember that Spring, mum?
The one where daddy was always home?
We ate all our meals together, mum,
And spoke to nana lots on the phone!

Do you remember that Spring, mum?
Where we did loads of arts and crafts?
We went for quiet walks by the river,
And sailed those little handmade rafts?

Do you remember that Spring, mum?
Where we had lots of family movie nights?
We had whole days in our pyjamas, mum,
And had loads and loads of tickle fights!

Do you remember that Spring, mum?
When you put the tent up in the front room?
We had so many cuddles and snuggles,
I hope we have a spring like that soon!

Do you remember that Spring, mum?
The one where we didn't stick to routine?
It was amazing to have so much fun, mum.
It was the best spring there's ever been.

Becki Johnson

CHURCHES CLOSED DURING HOLY WEEK

Extracts from a recent article in the Sunday Telegraph

Eight hundred years ago, the most important person in the land instructed all churches to close. Pope Innocent III, no resident of England but unquestionably the most important person in it (at least in his mind), was engaged in a bitter dispute with King John over who should be the next Archbishop, a perennial tussle between church and state. Innocent wanted a Parisian scholar, John refused. Innocent thundered and eventually placed the whole country on “Interdict”.

Innocent’s order closed all the churches, stopped services and suspended all rites, except baptisms (which took place in private) and the sacrament for the dying. By a delightful coincidence, back in 1208 Innocent issued his interdict on March 23, the same day Boris Johnson placed the UK into lockdown. We expect our Interdict to last three, perhaps six months. Innocent’s lasted six years. John eventually relented.

We prize individuality, but yearn for time together. We cherish our freedoms, but recognise the need to sacrifice them. Like in 1208 we are being prevented from celebrating together. Unlike then, it is for our own good.

In the meantime, even if churches are closed on Easter Sunday, the Church will not be. Across the country, it will continue to maintain its role of worship, teaching and pasturing, online, over the phone and in prayer. Millions of Christians will celebrate Easter, apart.

*Nick Spencer (senior fellow at the Christian Thinktank Theos)
Thanks to Wendy for sharing this*

Layworker's Lake



I have had the unexpected pleasure of regularly walking around a local lake these past few weeks. As the days have gone on, people have learnt to walk in something of a regimented line, well spaced out, whilst another line walks counter clock-wise to this around the lake. It has been good to become familiar with the faces of other people walking at the same time of the day and greet them. Social distancing does not mean we cannot smile or wave!

We have all had the challenge of adapting to a new way of living. Kindly people have picked up the phone and checked in on each other, all of our churches have made sure shopping is done and medicine collected for those who cannot go out, and we have found new ways to offer worship to God either in our own way or with resources given to us. In many ways there has been a great sense of relief as the bustle of life has reduced and the noise around us has quieted. We have appreciated the bird song and the blue sky and so has nature. However, we have had extra challenges and also missed seeing each other.

For a long time I lived on my own, and thoroughly enjoyed it but I found quite soon that I liked to see people. I would go along to the corner shop to speak to the assistants on days when I was otherwise not out because I realised that if I didn't, after a few days, I found life more of a struggle than it should have been. It has therefore been with great delight that I have recently heard a cheer when people have seen each other after a number of weeks apart. These meetings have been facilitated by a computer application called Zoom. It is a free resource, easily accessed online and for which the details can be found on the Circuit website www.croydonmeth.org in the Youth & Children's page, in the Safeguarding file.

Through Zoom several people can all meet at once, seeing and hearing each other. Up to 100 can meet at any time which means that some of

our churches have found this a helpful way to meet for worship recently. Coffee Mornings have been facilitated and Youth Group Meetings too.

Alongside our new opportunities is also the real pain of not being able to be with our loved ones when they are ill or pass away. In our minds we see their faces, we hold them in our prayers, we hope that God stays close to them particularly when we can't. In my walks around the lake I have often not even noticed it is there, still too pre-occupied to see it, large as it is. I have therefore increasingly started to stop at the far side and make sure I glance across the water. I have seen the light reflecting from the ripples, the leaves making greener shapes to the trees, and glimpsed the glory of creation. In our disorientation and pain God offers us living water. It is there to calm, comfort and refresh us. Whether we can see others or not, let us take the time to see the good things God, to find faith in a new way.

May Easter continue to bless you,

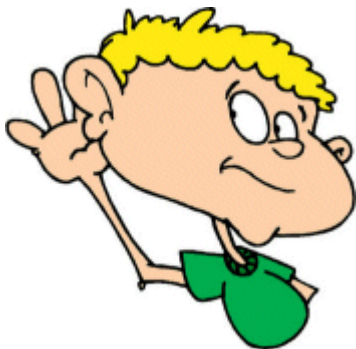
Lindsey Macfarlane

Croydon Circuit Youth Development & Safeguarding Officer

Lindsey@croydonmeth.org 020 8653 2424

More online information via www.croydonmeth.org and Facebook:

Lindsey Croydon Meth



Future Events

Face to face meetings are currently suspended due to the global pandemic situation. However some events will be taking place online and other activities we ask that you pray for blessings on our community as we live in a different way.

Prayers please:

on **Monday** for **Children and those who are Vulnerable**

on **Tuesday** for **Families and those who Care**

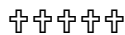
on **Wednesday** for **Guides and Scouts**
on **Thursday** for **Girls' & Boys' Brigade**
on **Friday** for **Young People, Schools & Futures**
on **Saturday** for **Special Occasions and Celebrations**
on **Sunday** for **All Ages and Community**

Future Events

Café Worship – Sunday 24th May, 5pm, online

Friday 8th May – VE Day Celebrations

22nd – 25th May – Cliff College Festival Weekend online



CHIPPY CHAT



Met in a chippy, had a chat, well you know,
About this and that.
Sat at a table chipping at the batter,
Looked you in the face, and began to natter.
Nice to see you, how've you been?
Seen anyone at CV? Not since I bin,
This is the sort of thing we'd talk of when sitting eating chips.

Chipping and chatting as we aimlessly sit,
When meeting our mates, before the lockdown bit hard,
When of social distancing we'd never heard,
When queuing at t'chipp 'ole was the only word.

Wherever we did roam and strolling together,
Was how we got 'ome,
Slurping our pop bottles, Coke or Fanta,
Chatting and strolling whilst making some banter.
Parting at the bus stop, waving to our mates,
Just a normal evening, what are the rates?
Will we do it again? Soon?

Bob Horne, from an idea by Mike Jones

Weekly Services and Meetings at Christ Church

(There is currently no worship nor are any meetings being held at church)

09.15	Holy Communion (2 nd Sun)		
09.30	Time for quiet prayer (3 rd Sun)		
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 (4 th Sun)		
Monday			
09.30	0-5 Stay & Play		
18.00	Monday Club (monthly, 3 rd Monday)		
Tuesday			
19.00	Rangers (fortnightly)		
19.30	Emmaus Bible Study Group		
Wednesday			
18.30	Guides		
Thursday			
09.30	0-5 Stay & Play		
18.45	Brownies		

Minister	Rev'd Soon Cheol Choi	8654 5481
Senior Steward	Adrian Pickett	8771 7222
Church Stewards		
Sunday morning services only → Sunday morning services only →		
Room Bookings		