



CONNEXION



Trust in our Lord

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

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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		JUNE
Sunday 10.30am 11.15am	7	TRINITY SUNDAY Stephen Day's act of worship on YouTube All Age Worship led by Choi on Zoom
Sunday 10.30am 11.15am	14	Stephen Day's act of worship on YouTube All Age Worship led by Choi on Zoom
Sunday 10.30am 11.15am 5.00pm	21	Stephen Day's act of worship on YouTube All Age Worship led by Choi on Zoom Cafe Worship on Zoom
Sunday 10.30am 11.15am	28	Stephen Day's act of worship on YouTube All Age Worship led by Choi on Zoom

Also on Sundays, Wesley's Chapel has live streaming at 11.00am and there is a service on BBC1 late mornings.

As the lockdown continues, so does our worship. The link to **Revd Stephen Day's service** for either live or later viewing is <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjsqXYbmrBE9GD4hNOUVEjg?feature=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fchannel%2FUCjsqXYbmrBE9GD4hNOUVEjg%3Ffeature%3Dem-lsb-owner>

All Age Worship led by Revd Choi takes place at 11.15am on Sundays via Zoom – the link is on the email sending out the weekly Keeping in Touch sheet.

Also on Sunday mornings during this crisis, **early prayers** are being held weekly at 9.40am for half an hour on Zoom. If you would like to join in, please contact Fiona.

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Welcome to the June 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 JULY by **Sunday, 21 June** 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,

By the time you read this letter, I think we will be passing over ten weeks' lockdown and most of us may find it not easy. But I hope you and your family are keeping well in this unprecedented time of pandemic and you may be able to take it as a kind of opportunity of learning to grow in faith and getting to know the presence of God more closely.

Although this coronavirus crisis has created 'isolation and social distancing', which seems to challenge us as church, I do not think it has stopped us being church. As we know, 'church' is not the building but the people. It is not about just congregating, although we know the joy of worshipping together, but more about communicating, caring and helping each other. I am sure this is the time we can practice it in various ways while we are even in isolation. That is, in a sense, what the real worship is all about, as Paul said in Romans 12. 1, *"to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship"*. And, we know that quite a few of our church families are already involved in this ministry through our church community as well as the local community. This means that we are still 'the Church'.

On the other hand, if we look up the Acts 8, we see there was a serious persecution broken out against the church and Christians after the death of Stephen. So, all the houses of believers were raided and their gatherings were banned. Due to this persecution, all the believers in Jerusalem were scattered throughout the country. The Church seemed to disappear. But, actually what happened was they went away with the gospel, and were able to spread the good news and build the churches wherever they settled. That was God's amazing plan, which no one could understand.

What we can learn from this event is that there are many things we can do as followers of Jesus, even if we are locked down at home. It can be an opportunity of refreshing the family relationships, or an opportunity of renewing our relationship with God, or creating a time of family worship. The devil might have wanted to close all the churches, and he did, but

he didn't know that God has opened the churches, one in every household. We can be 'Church', even in lockdown, if we continue to be faithful to God.

So, my prayer is that we may continue to worship in our own places, with new challenges, and may not lose our hearts, trusting God and his promise that he will not leave us alone.

Every blessing,
Rev. SC Choi.

CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

Revd Paul Weary, who was our minister at Christ Church in the early Noughties, led our **Church Anniversary service on Sunday 17 May**. The Anniversary is a celebration to remember when Cherry and Addiscombe Methodist Churches came together as Christ Church Methodist, Addiscombe. We thank Paul for leading us and for his inspiring sermon.

The service was recorded and is available on the church website www.christchurchmeth.org.uk for those who may not have heard it. Many thanks to Revd Choi, to all who took part in the service and to Adrian Pickett for his work in bringing the different elements of the service together.

FAMILY NEWS



As we continue in lockdown, it is encouraging to know that infections are on a downward spiral. We remember in our prayers all those who have been affected by the virus and thank God for the care provided by NHS and other keyworkers and indeed by our volunteers at Christ Church.

June brings a special day to Gill and Robin Haslam as they celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary on the 9th. We send them our congratulations, love and best wishes.

The Dalrymple family have had an expensive time as it was Cassandra's 21st birthday on 29 May and Philippa's 15th on the 30th. Older sister Berenice celebrates her 25th birthday on 15 June. Congratulations, love and very best wishes to them all.

A Happy 3rd birthday to Doreen and Mick's grandson Ralph, celebrated on 14th May. Such a milestone after a wobbly start. Rosie and Molly Tompsett celebrate their birthdays on 16 June (23rd and 20th respectively), Victoria Luke's birthday is on 26 June and Isabel Assaly's on the 30th. Very happy birthday and love to them all.

We pray for families everywhere who have been missing seeing each other for so long, that the present 'no hugging' restrictions will ease over the coming weeks.

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.



at **CHRIST CHURCH**

All ages welcome
for an informal hour of
Worship and Fellowship

PLEASE NOTE NEW ARRANGEMENTS

See weekly **Keeping in Touch** sheet for updates

**We are meeting on the third Sunday
of the month from now on**

Next meeting:
SUNDAY 21 JUNE at 5.00pm on Zoom
the link will be on the Keeping in Touch sheet

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 and we are discovering the many features of Zoom. It is a good opportunity for lots of people to attend from their sofas and take part remotely. We enjoy seeing each other and have been joined by people from other churches in the Croydon Circuit and some who don't live in Croydon.

Wendy Thompson

Action for Children Update

Coronavirus Appeal



actionforchildren.org.uk

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

The demand for help has risen during the Covid-19 crisis and so the charity has launched an appeal for extra donations during these unprecedented times.

Families who were already struggling to feed their children before the coronavirus hit, now find themselves unable to afford food and basic essentials. So many vulnerable families have lost their incomes and have reached breaking point. They are really frightened and need urgent help.

Action for Children has thousands of key workers across the UK working on the frontline helping the most vulnerable children and families. The charity supports them in many ways, for example, with online food ordering, providing supermarket vouchers and paying top-ups on fuel cards.

You can donate by : Calling: 0300 123 2112

Texting 'ACTION' to 70607 to give £10 now.

Or going online at actionforchildren.org.uk



actionforchildren.org.uk

Action for Children Boxes

Many of the collection boxes were handed to me before lockdown and the money has finally been counted. It is essential that this money reaches the charity as soon as possible so I wondered if someone could volunteer to take it to an HSBC bank please?

For those of you who still have your collection box at home could you please open it yourself and send the money directly to Action for Children, 3 the Boulevard, Ascot Road, Watford. WD18 8AG. Could you please let me know when you have done this so I can update the records that are requested by the charity.



Many thanks for all your help.

Mary Salter



MEMORIES OF VE DAY

VE (Victory in Europe) Day was on May 8th 1945 when Britain celebrated the end of the Second World War in Europe.

The Methodist Recorder recently asked readers for their memories of the day for a special feature to mark the 75th anniversary of VE day. My dad had already died by then but he had shared his memories of the day so I sent them to the paper and they printed it.

Frank Thompson's memories of VE day

He remembered walking into Bromley (South London) and seeing that the buses were able to have their full headlights on instead of dipped ones that had been used during the war. He was very keen on public transport.

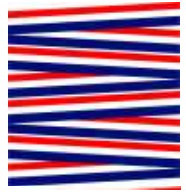
He wasn't really in the mood to celebrate though, as his 18th birthday was coming up in July 1945 and he knew he would be called up for military service and would have to fight. In the end he started his National Service on August 15th 1945 - VJ Day. He thanked God that peace had come to all of the world.

Wendy Thompson



VE DAY MEMORIES

8th May 1945



I suddenly realised on 7th May that I would not see Mummy or Daddy on my birthday the following day as it was a Tuesday. I was in hospital and visitors were only allowed on Sunday or Wednesday afternoons. I knew Daddy was on his ship in the Royal Navy.

Suddenly on Monday evening I saw Mummy and Auntie Doris, our lodger, walking up the ward with some red tulips and some red, white and blue hair ribbon. They said that the war was over. I knew that there would be no more bombs and Daddy would be home for good, but having been less than four months old at the start of the war, I did not understand what peace was.

On my birthday afternoon, the children from the other two children's wards came to my ward. I thought it was just for me (I realised a couple of years later it was for VE Day!). There was a cake, jelly and ice cream (for only the second time in my life).

My parents paid into HSA (Hospital Savings Association) which paid the hospital fees – no NHS in those days.

When I came out, I went to convalescence in Haslemere for three months. There were no visitors so Mummy was able to go to Portsmouth to celebrate VJ Day with Daddy. The stay was paid for by a charity as money was tight. Mummy did not work and child allowance was only paid for second and other children – so Mummy had to manage on Daddy's Navy allowance.

Sheila Szzvanowski



A Place to Pause

My steep path down
under the trees is paved
with small rounded stones,
marbles to caution my steps;
to peace from wind and
full sunlight to a valley of memories

My path of crushed leaves curves left
right and down under tall trees with
new views at each bend;
steep slopes to left and to right
and now comes a great birch ahead

large gripping fingers of roots
spread down the high slope towards me;
an aged monster high gnarled and bumpy
with dividing delta like roots,
demanding commanding ground space.

In a nook between roots sits a woman
her back to the trunk in a shaft of sun,
in peaceful absorbed contemplation,
I pass with a question unasked;
past a tree that invites meditation.

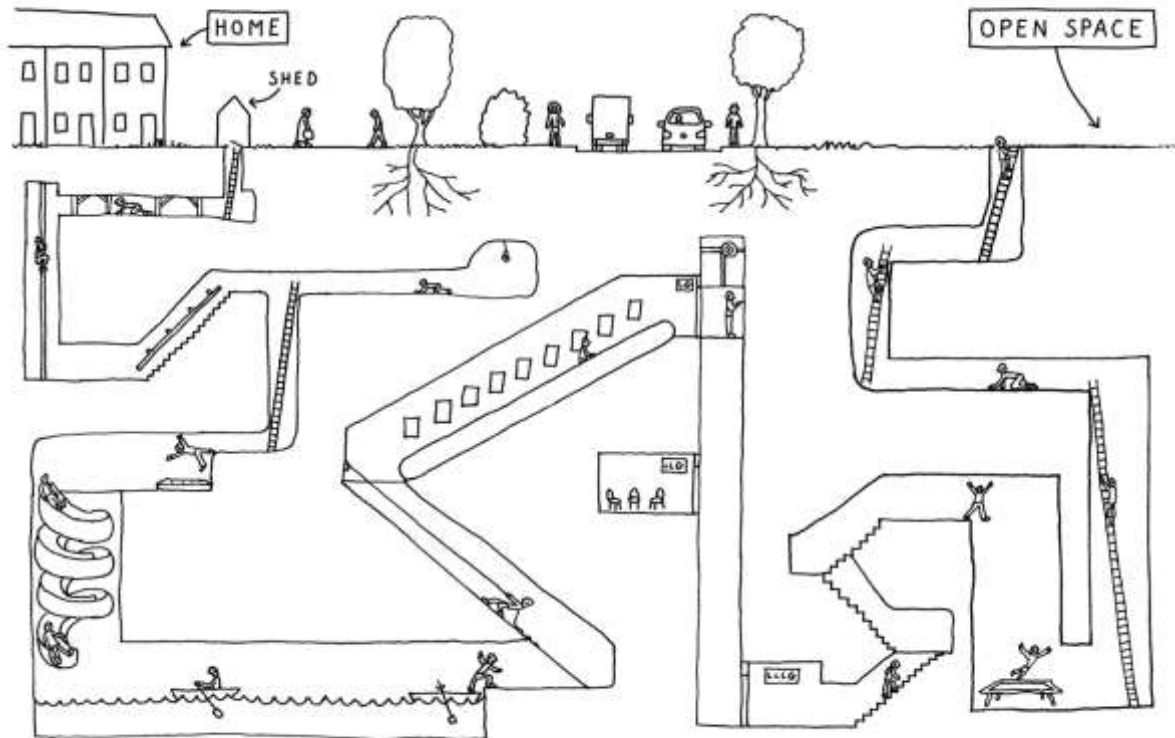
This tree almost speaks invites me
to pause to inspect and wonder
till one day time pauses
a calmness a presence, yes presence,
a parallel presence to a lifetime ago.

On the trunk at eye level a poem
from the loss of a wartime young man,
four verses that cry out his lost love
in words that are simple throat-gripping;
draw those who come close to respond.

Rex April 2020

EXERCISE

HOW TO AVOID EVERYONE ELSE



FROM ISRAEL TO RWANDA

... a memory ...

As I write, I'm scrolling through photographs I took during a pilgrimage to Israel at Easter some years ago, and scrolling into photographs I took while I travelled to Rwanda just ten weeks later: something of an anniversary of those journeys made at this time in that year.

Scrolling through the photographs has always been easier than sorting through some of the overwhelming impressions and feelings that remain as I remember Israel. I don't feel as though I was following in the footsteps of Jesus ... as some pilgrims did ... but I left the country feeling both the reality and the necessity of Jesus coming to live amongst people: offering us release from our debilitating confidence in who we think God means us to be and what we think God means us to do ... embracing our humanity ... inviting us to live with him through every costly choice that challenges our ways of being and doing things ... with vulnerability and compassion.

Struggling with the entrenched nature of the opposing forces in Israel, probably because it intensified my personal memories of working to touch the effects of Apartheid on people and helping them to encounter each other beyond segregation, I had looked forward to traveling to Rwanda.

I had no doubt that I would be profoundly affected by the genocide memorial sites, the sites of reconciliation ministries and meeting survivors in the aftermath of the Rwandan genocide. Yet I felt that there in the sadness I would find more hope because *“the stories of the survivors of the 1994 genocide are horrific but what makes them unique*

and hopeful is the ability those survivors have to forgive and love those who killed their loved ones” (Claude Nikondeha - Amahoro Africa). People who had no apparent reason to trust people anymore were taking Jesus at his word, living with him through costly choices.

Between those pilgrimages, though, I was undertaking the more modest journey that we all make through each day ... always pilgrims ... wondering whether we aren't sometimes so immersed in the intricate mechanics of knowing and doing church that the lifestyle of encountering people and becoming different ... more like Jesus ... eludes us ... perhaps because we aren't looking for the image of *God-who-reveals* in one another ... and in other surprising people ... who take Jesus at his word, living with him through costly choices ... perhaps because we don't feel it's also our job to be the image of *God-who-reveals* for one another ... and for other surprising people?

This year we're all pilgrims in an unfamiliar place ... perhaps with questions we're not even able to articulate yet.

I pray that God will bless your pilgrimage with people and places and curiosity.

Revd Nadine Wilkinson

RUOK?

What's on your mind the page said,
What's filterin' out through your brain,
Are you getting enough milk or bread,
Have you gone quite insane?



No I am stable and healthy,
The Covid has kept from my door,
Some food that is 'freely' offered,
Has actually caused a 'dropped' jaw !!

Croydon Vision are helping their members,
By offering food to reheat,
No charge will be made for the first one,
Oh that's an offer that cannot be beat !!

I have friends, that care, about me,
My health and well being are ticked,
There's texting and gaming for free,
And phone calls, that can't be licked.

There's nothing much wrong with me!!

Bob Horne



on Prayer

Jeanet Sinding Bentzen of the University of Copenhagen published a study on 30th March 2020 which looked at whether Google searches on prayer had increased during the month of March 2020 when Covid-19 went global.

She reports that seeking comfort in religion has risen dramatically since the onset of the pandemic with political leaders and self-organised groups urging their fellow citizens to pray. Google searches on the topic "*prayer*" have skyrocketed - surging to the highest level during the last 5 years for which comparative Google search data is available. Using daily data on internet searches for prayer for 75 countries, she reports that search intensity for prayer doubles for every 80,000 new registered cases of Covid-19.

Intensified searches on prayer during the Covid-19 pandemic is global - it occurs on all continents and for Christians and Muslims. The surge mainly coincides with increases in the registered cases of the Covid-19 rather than surges in death rates. Prayer intensity also rises in countries that have only recently been hit by the pandemic themselves.

As people in our communities turn to prayer, regardless of whether they attend church, they could be very interested in knowing about prayer support and churches may be interested in setting up prayer chains and publicising this to local households or setting up their own church prayer chain.

Our own prayer chain is already well established as an effective way to let members share, receive and pray for the needs of others. Please let Fiona know if you have a prayer chain request.

WHEN LIFE IS SHAKEN TO ITS CORE

When life is shaken to its core,
when clouds and storms arrive,
we find it difficult to know
God present in our lives.
Yet there's no misery or grief,
pain, doubt, or emptiness,
that is not known by the divine
and filled with tenderness.

When we are tempted to give up,
and purpose drains away,
where is the God of hope and joy?
Can peace replace dismay?
God, in the centre of our pain,
makes of our dark a tent,
a holy place of tearfulness
as life splits and fragments.

We need to learn to trust and know
God in our lives, God here
hidden within the clouds and storms,
one with our doubts and fears.
This is our peace: that in the depths
of our adversities
we find a God who shares our pain
and life's cruel miseries.



The striking image in v2 of the dark tent that becomes a holy place is reminiscent of the Tabernacle (“dwelling place”, a tent or covering) of the Ark of the Covenant described in the book of Exodus.

Words: © Andrew Brown (November 2019, rev. March 2020)
Andrew writes that this hymn “was written to counter the idea that God always brings light and was particularly inspired by verse 11 from [Psalm 18](#): *He made darkness his hiding place; his tent was in a circle about him, dark water in clouds of air*”.

Layworker's Laughter



Last month I shared the positive effect of a computer application called Zoom. This month I don't need to explain what that is, the world is run by it! In our global Lockdown God has blessed us with new technology to help us unlock ourselves and meet together in a different way. Clearly, not everyone is able to meet online and it has been refreshing to bump into folk whilst out exercising or shopping, for whom only face to face conversation is possible. Telephones have also been invaluable during this time. Lots of varied ways have been used across the Circuit to try to keep us all in touch and cared for.

There are additional security measures required for online communication. Predominantly you are inviting someone into your home without physically opening the front door and taking the caution you are used to. A new caution needs to be developed which involves considering what else is on view of your home in the picture that you are transmitting. We have all been interested to see what is in the homes of Government Ministers and TV guests over these past few weeks haven't we! The same is true for those looking in through your screen. After you have felt the frustrations of trying to connect up your technology dissipate please then feel a second wave of relief as you check you are not airing anything more than you want to with those who will be watching in.

Consequently, the details for online meetings are not being widely advertised but circulated through our pastoral systems so that there is a

connection of security between us. Therefore, please ask your youth and children's group leaders for details of regular Circuit and Church Youth Group Meetings and your pastoral leaders for details of activities for all ages. We have recently begun Circuit get-togethers for both of these groups and would like them to be as helpful as possible.

We all know that laughter is the best medicine and a broken spirit dries the bones (Proverbs 17:22) so it is great to see the mood of the day lifted by a bit of fun together. In addition to these activities are a growing amount of Bible Study, Prayer and Worship events all online and the contact details for these can be found on the Circuit website www.croydonmeth.org or by asking the Circuit Staff.

I know for many of you the church magazines have been a brilliant way for you to keep up with the local church and Circuit news for many years. May I congratulate all the editors for continuing responding to the changing opportunities and now making magazines available electronically as well as posting them out to lots of avid readers. I hope you are all safe and well and hope that you will feel at least something to smile about today. It is not always easy but as the blue skies continue to remind us of God's sustaining creation may we also continue to feel His deep love for us all too.

With best wishes,

Lindsey Macfarlane

Croydon Circuit Youth Development & Safeguarding Officer

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**



23RD PSALM

For those at work or in lockdown

The Lord is my pace-setter, I shall not rush.

He makes me stop and rest for quiet intervals,

He provides me with images of stillness, which restore my serenity,

He leads me in ways of efficiency, through calmness of mind, and His guidance is peace.

Even though I have a great many things to accomplish each day I will not fret, for His presence is here.

His timeliness, His all-importance will keep me in balance.

He prepares refreshment and renewal in the midst of my activity by anointing my mind with His oils of tranquillity.

My cup of joyous energy overflows.

Surely harmony and effectiveness shall be the fruits of my hours.

For I shall walk in the pace of my Lord and dwell in his house for ever.

Toki Miyashina

Bible Word Search: COUNTRIES OF THE BIBLE

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

ASSYRIA	CANAAN	BABYLON
PERSIA	TOGARMAH	TARSHISH
ROSH	ACHAIA	MACEDONIA
PUT	ASIA MINOR	INDIA
GALATIA	PHILISTIA	SAMARIA
CYPRUS	CRETE	ETHIOPIA
MELITA	EGYPT	JUDAH

Instructions:

Find and circle the words from the list. Words may be forward, backward, vertical, or diagonal within the puzzle.

Note - This list was obtained by searching Wikipedia and other sites. The modern equivalents are: Assyria (Iraq); Canaan (Israel); Babylon (Iraq); Persia (Iran); Togarmah (Germany); Tarshish (Spain); Rosh (Russia); Achaia (Greece); Macedonia (Greece); Put (Libya); Asia Minor (Turkey); India (India: Esther 8:9); Galatia (Central Turkey); Philistia (Gaza Strip); Samaria (Golan Heights); Cyprus (Cyprus); Crete (Crete); Ethiopia (Ethiopia); Melita (Malta: Acts 28:1); Egypt (Egypt); Judah (Israel).

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Weekly Services and Meetings at Christ Church <i>(We hope that worship and meetings/groups will be back at Church soon)</i>			
09.15	Holy Communion (2 nd Sun)		
09.30	Time for quiet prayer (3 rd Sun)		
10.10	Songs for Worship (2 nd Sun)	Karen Taylor	
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)	Wendy Thompson	
Monday			
09.30	0-5 Stay & Play	Adelle Goode	
18.00	Monday Club (monthly, 3 rd Monday)	Adelle Goode	
Tuesday			
19.00	Rangers (fortnightly)	Rosemary Dalrymple	
19.30	Emmaus Bible Study Group	Fiona Assaly	
Wednesday			
18.30	Guides	Rosemary Dalrymple	
Thursday			
09.30	0-5 Stay & Play	Adelle Goode	
18.45	Brownies	Sally Francis	

Minister	Revd Soon Cheol Choi	
Senior Steward	Adrian Pickett	
Church Stewards	Gill Haslam Sue Astington Natalie Thomas Andrew Thynne Fiona Assaly Karen Taylor	
	Sunday morning services only →	
	Sunday morning services only →	
Room Bookings	Pat Bates	