



CONNEXION



*May God be with you on holiday
or at home this August and always*

**The magazine of
Christ Church Methodist, Addiscombe
AUGUST 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		AUGUST
Sunday 10.30am 11.15am	2	Stephen Day's act of worship on YouTube All Age Worship led by Choi on Zoom
Sunday 10.30am 11.15am	9	Stephen Day's act of worship on YouTube All Age Worship led by Choi on Zoom
Sunday 10.30am 11.15am 5.00pm	16	Stephen Day's act of worship on YouTube All Age Worship led by Choi on Zoom Cafe Worship led by Wendy on Zoom
Sunday 10.30am 11.15am	23	Stephen Day's act of worship on YouTube All Age Worship led by Choi on Zoom
Sunday 10.30am 11.15am	30	Stephen Day's act of worship on YouTube All Age Worship led by Choi on Zoom

Our worship continues via the internet and telephone. The link to **Revd Stephen Day's service** for either live or later viewing is
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjsgXYbmrBE9GD4hNOUVEjg?feature=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fchannel%2FUCjsgXYbmrBE9GD4hNOUVEjg%3Ffeature%3Dem-lsb-owner>

All Age Worship from Christ Church takes place at 11.15am on Sundays via Zoom – the links are on the email sending out the weekly Keeping in Touch sheet. 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>

Cafe Worship on 16 August at 5.00pm – the Zoom link will be sent out by email from Wendy. If you don't receive it, please contact her.

Also on Sunday mornings, **early prayers** are currently 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 August 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 SEPTEMBER by **Sunday, 23 August** by email to ccmamagazine@hotmail.com . Requests for email version to above address. Thanks as always to all contributors.

Editorial team



OUR MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear friends,

Over the last five months of lockdown, you may have asked some questions like these: What is God doing in this world of pandemic? Where are you, God? Or, some of you may have been confronted with questions about life and living: What does life look like under social distancing? Where can we find joy when we are surrounded by barriers and cut-off from our communities? How much of life can we live meaningfully over the zoom or on the phone? Well, who can answer them? These are the questions that we all are struggling with at the moment. But, in the Bible, from the stories of Abraham to the story of Jesus on the cross and beyond, we see God's goodness never ending. We witness that even paths to death can result in abundant life and become places where the Kingdom of God might break through. So, standing on this faith and hope, I'd like to offer a prayer written by Jill Baker.

The Psalmist writes;

"How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? How long must I bear pain in my soul, and have sorrow in my heart all day long?"

Sometimes we feel like that – for ourselves and for others around the world whose suffering seems endless. In our prayers for others today we express something of that longing for things to change, using silence in which to lament all that is wrong.

We hold in silent prayer the groaning of this world, the sense of hopelessness at the effects of pollution and climate change, of plastic waste and rising sea levels... [Silence]

How long, O Lord?

We hold in silent prayer the grief of so many around the world, mourning the loss of family and friends to incurable illness, to starvation and to war...

[Silence]

How long, O Lord?

We hold in silent prayer the great needs of our own society, these islands, this city/town/village, our street, those who live around the church where we worship... [Silence]

How long, O Lord?

We hold in silent prayer our own families, knowing there are hurts we cannot heal, grievances we cannot solve, challenges we cannot answer...

[Silence]

How long, O Lord?

We hold in silent prayer our own needs, our fears and anxieties, our sins and selfishness, our desire to change and our failure to do so...

[Silence]

How long, O Lord?

In our longing and our lament, we hear again the words of the psalmist; 'But I trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord, because he has dealt bountifully with me' and we offer our prayers in the name of the Creator God who brought light out of darkness, in the name of Jesus Christ who brought life out of death and in the name of the Holy Spirit who brought order out of chaos.

So today Lord, hear our prayer. We ask that you free us from all our sins, we ask that we clearly hear your words of grace, that our sins are forgiven. And today dear Lord we say here I am, use me. Amen.

Every blessing,
Rev. SC Choi.



FAMILY NEWS

As we continue to come out of lockdown, we pray that those we know who have been self-isolating or shielding can find the confidence to emerge into this new world in the knowledge that God will support them every step of the way.

We pray for those who are unwell or who have family members who are unwell, that they will return to fitness soon.

For all with birthdays or anniversaries in August, we pray that you will be able to celebrate with family or friends.

For all on holiday from work, university or school and for those who are retired or not working, we pray that you will have a good break this month, that the weather will be kind and that God's love will shine through you in everything that you do.

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

Emmaus Bible Study group

The group will not be meeting in August and will reconvene on Tuesday 8 September at 7.30pm.

Many Hands Make Lettings Work?

'Many hands make light work' is a well-known phrase of course. I am helping our Property Committee apply this principle as we consider how to organise room bookings and lettings in the future. It is thought that a small team of people could share the duties and so make it less of a burden for one person. As you know, up to now Pat has been overseeing this role single-handed and we are indebted to her for her tireless devotion.



Could you be one of those people to join a lettings management team? Modern technology offers the opportunity to share information speedily between people and so allocate and share the tasks. For example it is envisaged that one person could perhaps concentrate on the schedule of room hires. Another handles new enquiries while others share the task of dealing with calls for assistance from hirers on the premises, among other tasks.

Perhaps you'd like to help trial systems that could be used. One I am trying to explore is a telephone calls handling system so that calls can be directed to particular members of the team, depending on the purpose of the call. All help appreciated.

The aim is to share the work, make a fun team that is rewarding to work with and help the community use our premises for mutual benefit. Do get in touch if you'd like to know more.

Andrew Thynne



See weekly
Keeping in
Touch sheet for
updates



We meet on the third Sunday of the month



SUNDAY 16 AUGUST 5PM
on Zoom
Led by Wendy

Theme: Holiday at Home

*The link will be in the
Keeping in Touch sheet*

We are not able to worship on church premises at the moment due to the continuing Coronavirus restrictions but we haven't stopped worshipping. We have decided not to take a summer break so do join us wherever you are in the UK or further afield. Zoom has no geographical boundaries!

Wendy Thompson

I just failed my driving test theory. The question asked "What is a sign you may see on a motorway?" Apparently "Pick your own strawberries" isn't an acceptable answer!

Methodist Prayer Handbook

2020/2021

The Earth is the Lord's

Inspired by Psalm 24:1, the Handbook recognises how human activities are having a major impact on the life systems of our world.

With these prayers of thanksgiving, penitence and intercession, we can resolve that with God's help, we may take responsibility for our actions and, as stewards of God's gift to us, participate in the healing of creation.

Copies can now be ordered online from Methodist Publishing at a cost of £4.50 each. If you have no access to the internet, please contact Fiona by 16 August and she can order a copy for you.



**If God sends you down a stony path,
may He give you strong shoes!**

2020/2021: A Year of Prayer for The Methodist Church



The Methodist Conference has voted to declare 2020/2021 a Year of Prayer to support the new Connexional Strategy for Evangelism and Growth. Districts, circuits, churches, and individuals are invited to pray for the Methodist Church as we deepen our commitment to be a growing, evangelistic, inclusive, justice-seeking Church of gospel people.

The God for All strategy commits the Church theologically, culturally and financially to deepen its mission to be a growing, evangelistic, justice-seeking and inclusive Church.

The strategy is the result of a year-long consultation across the Connexion involving more than one hundred large groups and thousands of individual conversations with leaders, practitioners, and ecumenical partners.

In the context of declining Methodist Church membership numbers, God for All prioritises helping new people become disciples of Jesus, starting hundreds of new churches and raising up new lay and ordained leaders to join God in engaging diverse rural, urban, estate and suburban communities across Britain. The strategy also focuses significant energy and resources on developing the role of young evangelists, serving communities experiencing marginalisation, expanding the Church's digital presence and helping Methodists live out their faith in everyday life.

God for All will launch in September with a focused Year of Prayer that will offer the Church's work to God.

Trey Hall, Director of Evangelism and Growth, commented: "I am delighted that the Methodist Church has so emphatically affirmed this strategy and has recognised that its bold, missional commitments are absolutely crucial, especially in the context of the pandemic."

"We want every aspect of our commitment to evangelism to flow from God's amazing grace. Of course, we must also have an intelligent understanding of changing demographics, cultural and social shifts, and the patterns of younger generations: and our mission strategy must engage these factors in relevant, practical, and compelling ways."

"This strategy is not built on any quick fixes. It signals a direction of travel for deep gospel transformation not only for the next five years, but also for the long-term future of our mission and whole life together. I pray that it might be joy for the Church and the world alike."

The next Methodist Conference will meet in Birmingham from 24 June – 1 July 2021.



Questioning and Rewriting

I enjoy Norse, Greek and Old Testament myths. They appeal to all ages and linger in our memories like, for example, Adam and Eve. Those of us who heard the Adam and Eve story as children have, at some time, been reluctant to accept that Adam and his male followers do not, in fact, have one rib less than Eve and her followers; that there are still some Bible readers who, when confronted with this challenge, balk at a so easily disproved fact.

It is also easy to swallow that this myth was composed by a man. It fits into the male dominated books of the Old Testament. Poor Eve, it is suggested, was weak and tempted by the snake and she in turn tempts Adam. Is it any wonder that the Feminist movement list their wide anger under the banner Spare Rib?

A myth is a campfire story created to explain a mystery such as the devastating flood and rainbow in the story of Noah* and the tough, competitive search for food in the story of Adam and Eve hinging on their penalty of free will.

Many people are uneasy about questioning and looking too closely at Bible stories and the motives of those who wrote them, whether myths or historic accounts. Yet, surely, we can agree that the myth makers and historians

of those times were men painting in a male dominated world.

If we accept this, then we might think up a better alternative to an Eve and Adam story and consider where this would leave us. I hope you will enjoy such an adventure we have written for our next Connexion newsletter.

Rex

** It is now accepted that the myth of Noah's Flood is an adaptation of a Babylonian myth. That God is represented in this as a wrathful killer is appalling to us.*



Memories of **Starting Work in 1956**

I left school in July 1956 aged 17 with 5 'O' levels – normally only taken at grammar (which I attended) and private schools. A week later, I started work to train as a Chartered Accountant at a good rate of pay of £250 per year!

I had never been in an office before – no work experience in those days. On arrival, I was introduced to Mr Spain, my immediate boss, and told I would be working in an audit team and would start on the P&O Shipping Line team - there were about four or five others. I was to check bank statements with returned cheques. None of my family had bank accounts so I had never seen a cheque, bank statement or account book before. (The first time I saw a computer was in the early 60s and it took up a whole room, similar in size to the church lounge!)

The group soon taught me and although they came from public schools, they did not look down on an ordinary working class girl. I was put under Miss Collins, an older lady who was very helpful. All the other staff were male.

At the end of the month I went to Deloitte to get my pay (and to open a bank account); before then, most people used Post Office savings accounts.

My weekly season ticket was 8 shillings (s) and 4 pence, equivalent to 42p now. This was the two thirds rate for under 18s from Tooting Broadway to Moorgate (no zones then). I gave mum £1 per week and was able to save something for clothes and holidays. Most of my lunches were paid from luncheon vouchers of 3s (15p) a day.

I enjoyed the work going to different companies and learning. I soon enrolled on a correspondence course, working by day and studying by night. After six years, I qualified – still going from company to company, sometimes staying away, My salary was now £950 a year. Riches indeed!

Sheila Szzvanowski

A message from the Chief Executive of ALL WE CAN, Graeme Hodge

Can you imagine having to face Coronavirus without access to running water and soap, in cramped and unhygienic conditions, where social distancing simply isn't possible? This is the reality faced by our brothers and sisters across the globe, right now.

Cox's Bazaar in Bangladesh is home to the world's largest refugee camp. Here, Coronavirus is an urgent and ever present danger. In a situation where life is already desperately hard for the inhabitants of the camps, this disease could spread rapidly, as sanitation facilities are scant and social distancing near impossible. With the recent news of cases of Coronavirus detected within the camps, this threat is more urgent than ever.

Your gift could help support an isolation centre providing personal protective equipment, supplies and technical support to isolation beds. The generosity of people like you is already supporting the installation of 1000 isolation beds as part of a wider health sector response. Any gift, no matter how small, will make a vital difference. It is a message to communities all over the world that you care deeply about them, and that you are committed to standing alongside them. Now, more than ever before, we must stand together as a global community to combat this deadly pandemic. Please know that my prayers are with you and your loved ones, as we journey through this difficult time together with our global neighbours.

To donate: <https://www.allwecan.org.uk/give/make-a-donation/covid19emergencyappeal/> or by phone, please call our Supporter Care team on [020 7467 5132](tel:02074675132).

Please pray for families who have lost loved ones to this pandemic, as well as all affected communities, governments and leaders as they face Coronavirus and protect the most vulnerable. *Graeme Hodge*



THE RIVER THAMES

Sixty years ago, the river was declared biologically dead. Now, it's home to 120 species of fish. River inhabitants include pikes, sharks, seals, harbour porpoises, the rare European eel and sea horses.

The foreshore areas are very important as they provide sanctuary for juvenile fish as they move up and down the river. Sadly, some developments encroach on this area and of course, the ever present plastic pollution ends up on the foreshore if it's not immediately washed out to sea. Shockingly, 94,000 microplastics flow down the river each second.

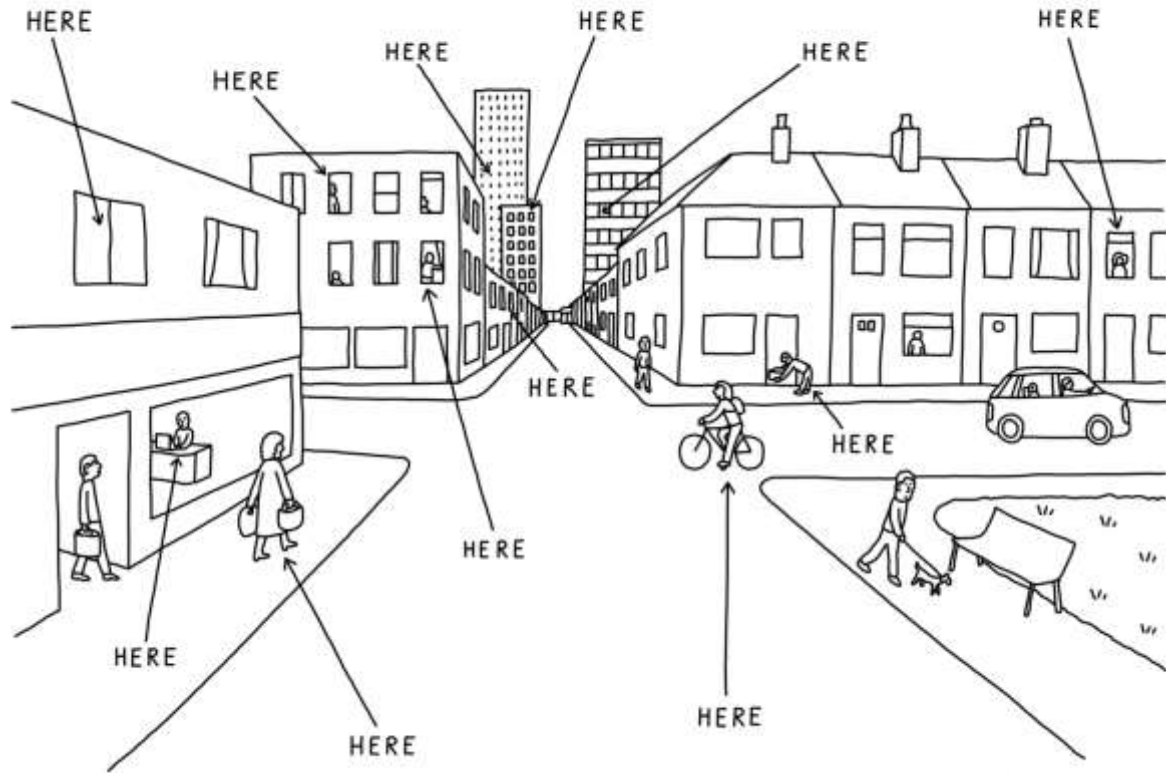
The Zoological Society of London has been surveying the river for 15 years and here's a link to a small sample of their virtual underwater research from the BBC website:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-england-london-49607783/river-thames-virtual-dive-exposes-an-array-of-life?ocid=wsnews.chat-apps.in-app-msg.whatsapp.trial.link1 .auin>

Recently, a human skull was unearthed by a mudlark on the foreshore and carbon dating found that it belonged to an 18 year old man (very specific!) who lived 5600 years ago. This Neolithic skull is the oldest find of its kind to have been unearthed in the Thames and is now displayed in the Museum of London.

Apparently, all you need to mudlark is a licence, a few bits of equipment and keeping an eagle eye on the tide!

WHERE THE CHURCH IS



WHATEVER THE WEATHER!!!!!!

Solve the anagrams and then
find the answers in the grid below

ALIH
SETLE
LEAG
DIWN
IRAN

UCDOL
DOLOF
OWNS
TIMS
OFG

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

Getting back to the Club (2!)

We've been to the club,
And had our say,
Done social activities,
Throughout the day.

Though a little quieter,
Since the familiar ceased,
We're just getting started,
Since Lockdown eased.

As the weeks move onward,
More will come,
Mates who we miss, with much aplomb.

The minibus empty, just a clutch of the few,
Enjoy the return, to all that is new,
Observing the rules, no singing aloud,
I tried to tell Lauren, he'd try he vowed.

Steven with his harmonica intended to play,
But Katherine she gently said, put it away.
Things will be different for a while at the start,
Working together will become quite an art.
With patience and gusto we'll all have our say,
Because we are family, and we will obey.

Bob Horne



We will meet when the danger is over

We will meet when the danger is over,
we will meet when the sad days are over;
we will meet sitting closely together
and be glad our tomorrow has come.

We will join to give thanks and sing gladly,
we will join to break bread and share wine;
and the peace that we pass to each other
will more than a casual sign.

So let's make with each other a promise
that when we've all come through is behind,
we will share what we missed and find meaning
in the things that once troubled our mind.

Until then may we always discover
faith and love to determine our way.
That's our hope and God's will and our calling
for our lives and for every new day.

John L Bell (C) Wild Goose Resource Group, The Iona Community

You are the peace of all things calm
You are the place to hide from harm
You are the light that shines in dark
You are the heart's eternal spark
You are the door that's open wide
You are the guest who waits inside
You are the stranger at the door
You are the calling of the poor
You are my Lord and with me still
You are my love, keep me from ill
You are the light, the truth, the way
You are my Saviour this very day.

Celtic oral tradition - 1st millennium





MISSIONS TO MARS!



You may wonder why there's currently a rash of news about missions to Mars. Both China and the United Arab Emirates have spacecraft enroute to the red planet. With the help of the BBC website, here are a few facts which may interest you:

- + Mars is our nearest neighbour and the most similar planet to Earth in the solar system
- + The distance between the planets constantly changes as they orbit the sun at different speeds and distances, from around 401m kilometres to ca 56m kilometres
- + Every two years, the planets are in the perfect position to reach Mars with the least amount of rocket fuel
- + After seven months of cruising, the spacecraft has to slow down from 10,000km per hour to enter Mars' atmosphere – too steep and it'll melt and burn up and too shallow and it'll bounce off
- + Landing on the red planet is known as the seven minutes of terror and this is why a successful landing is so celebrated
- + The atmosphere is 100 times thinner than ours so the astronauts use retro rockets and jet packs to slow down
- + The surface of Mars can have craters, cliffs and caves so the actual landing site is critical
- + And lastly, not all the scientific equipment may have survived the landing so it all needs to be checked

Do you fancy being an astronaut and travelling to Mars? I certainly don't, not after seeing the film *The Martian*!!

Fiona

LONDON METHODIST DISTRICT

Just a couple of reminders from the District:

District Pilgrimage 2021



You can still book for the Pilgrimage to the Holy Land with the Chairs of the London District which takes place from Tuesday 16 to Tuesday 23 March 2021.

This includes eight days in Jerusalem and Galilee exploring the settings of some of the most important events in Jesus' life and ministry. This has been described as the trip of a lifetime and your understanding of the gospels would never be the same again. Whether you are new to the Holy Land or have been many times before, there are always new sights and sounds to reflect upon.

For more information including current concerns over bookings: <https://www.methodistlondon.org.uk/pilgrimage>

District Christmas Card Competition



Design the District 2020 Christmas story in words, photo or drawing and let everyone experience the Christmas story through your creativity. This is part of the District's Woven project for 2019/20, centred on the power of storytelling to transform and renew us in our lifelong discipleship as followers of Christ.

To submit your entry and find out more, go to [Christmas card](#).

All entries must be received by Sunday 20 September 2020.



HELP THE BOAT TO SAIL

Change one letter in the word above to answer each clue

S	A	I	L
B	O	A	T

CLUES

- 1 Earth, dirt
- 2 Silver_____ - chocolate wrapper
- 3 Young horse
- 4 Black stuff used in fires
- 5 Jacket worn outdoors

Is the Isle of Man the Isle of Dogs' best friend?!

Weekly Services and Meetings at Christ Church

(We hope that worship and meetings/groups will be back at Church soon)

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 (3 rd 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	Revd Soon Cheol Choi	8654 5481
Senior Steward		
Church Stewards		
	Sunday morning services only →	
	Sunday morning services only →	
Room Bookings		