



CONNEXION



We will remember them

**The magazine of
Christ Church Methodist, Addiscombe
NOVEMBER 2021**

**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

NOVEMBER		
Sunday 10.30am	7	Morning Worship on Zoom and in Church – Mr Bennie Harms
Sunday 10.30am	14	REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY All Age Worship on Zoom and in Church – Revd Choi
Sunday 10.30am 5.00pm	21	Morning Worship on Zoom and in Church - Mrs Doreen Ridden Café Worship on Zoom and in Church
Sunday 10.30am	28	ADVENT SUNDAY Holy Communion on Zoom and in Church – Revd Choi

Christ Church worship 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 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.

Cafe Worship on Sunday 21 November 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 held weekly at 9.00am for half an hour on Zoom. If you would like to join in, please contact Mary Salter.

Welcome to the November 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 DECEMBER/JANUARY by **Sunday 21 November** either by email to ccmamagazine@hotmail.com. Requests for email version to above address. Thanks as always to all contributors.
Editorial team

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HARVEST – Donations to Croydon Food Bank and All We Can

Many thanks to everyone who donated items for the Croydon Food Bank. It made a rewarding communal activity for us all to share in. And thanks to Sue for arranging the monthly collection, to Mary Salter for delivering the items (they were gratefully received) and to all who helped make the associated al-fresco coffee morning on the Saturday a success.

Church Stewards

Thank you to everyone who made a donation to our harvest appeal for All We Can. The total raised was £210.00. If you still want to donate you can contact me or donate via the website.

Daphne Jones

FOOD BANK DONATION IN NOVEMBER

There will be an opportunity to make a donation to the Food Bank on **Saturday 13 November between **10.30am** and **12 noon** at church.**

Thank you. Sue

OUR MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear friends,

We all know that November is called a month of remembrance, remembering those whose lives were sacrificed in wars, particularly during the 1st and 2nd World Wars. Thousands and thousands, even millions of people lost their lives, perhaps without knowing why they had to die. In this sense, remembering itself may not be enough. What we should remember would be not just their names or terrible disasters, but, more importantly, why those wars broke out and what we did in the name of keeping peace.

During my sabbatical, I joined MPF (Methodist Peace Fellowship), which is part of FoR (Fellowship of Reconciliation), and learned a lot about their works and campaigns for peace and reconciliation, which was the theme of my sabbatical project. I know it is a huge topic, which cannot be explored in few months' time. But, what struck me was that it made me aware of how ignorant I was of the situations around the world at present as well as in the past, and how biased I was in terms of understanding the history.

During my research, I read a story about a soldier who wrote a letter to his church, saying "Love your land as true Englishmen: but do not forget to be Christians. Have room in your hearts for those who are called your 'enemies', many of whom serve the same Lord". He must have found it very difficult to fight against another Christians.

Another story is about a young man, turning 18 in 1944, registering as a conscientious objector, and having to face a tribunal. When he offered his willingness to service in the medical corps, the chairman of the tribunal said, 'Well, you'll kill germs, won't you? What's the difference between germs and Germans?' His response was 'Well, Germans happen to be people.'

These stories seem to help us to reframe our remembering in a broader way, without excluding those who died, and help us to see remembering as a Christian remembering, a reminder that we are

disciples of Jesus, and members of His Church. In this sense, it is our call, as the followers of Jesus, to ensure that our remembrance includes all those who suffered the consequences of war.

What we also should remember is that the victory of Jesus is won not through violence, not through war, but through cross and resurrection. Victory, peace, and reconciliation are not achieved through war, but through the dying and rising of Jesus.

Jesus wants us to 'take up our cross and follow him', not the sword or gun. This, we should remember, and I am sure this is the way we honour those who died.

Every blessing,

Rev. SC Choi.



REMEMBRANCE

Autumn has come,
The air is sharp and clear,
In the distance soon a band strikes up,
The old soldiers coming here.

After the 5th has fired its last,
and rockets have lit the sky,
The 11th day
will come our way.

Remembering those time lost wars,
We'll stand up firm,
and lower a flag,
and we'll remember them.

Bob Horne

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Well, the clocks have gone back which means we have so much to look forward to! The cold days are ahead but think of those gorgeous autumn colours, the crisp dry mornings, the promise of spring glory to come and so much to thank God for. We pray for a successful COP26 conference with some important initiatives being agreed by major powers and help for those countries less able relatively easily to move away from fossil fuels, so that the health of our planet can be put on the road to recovery.

Several of our friends are suffering from illness or injuries and we pray for them and for those known to us, that they will soon be on the road to recovery. For those with longer term conditions, may they know the comfort of God's love and support.

For those celebrating birthdays or anniversaries during November, very best wishes and congratulations to you all.

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.

ENCOUNTERING GOD IN THE BIBLE

The next bible study will be on Friday 19 November from 10.30am-12.00 noon led by Revd Pam Clews. It'll be held in the Blue Room at Church and all are very welcome. Entry is from the door by the rear car park.



JOIN THE “TECH TEAM”

At Christ Church we have a small “Tech Team” who currently enable our worship every week.



We are looking at expanding the team so that we can introduce a rota.

We invite you to consider joining us. Might you be able to help in any way with any of the following:

PowerPoint preparation and operation

Prepare PowerPoint on the Church laptop from the preacher’s order of service during the week and operate it during the service on a Sunday morning.

Sound and Lights

Operate the sound desk on a Sunday morning for - the church PA system, the hearing loop system, and for the live audio feed to Zoom. Also to make sure the Church is well lit.

Zoom host and Camera

Hosting the Zoom aspect of our hybrid worship and operation/ selection of relevant camera shots for the live stream. Recording the audio of the service.

Distribution of Audio recording

Making a small number of CD copies of the service each week and posting them out and uploading the audio so that it can be put on the Church website.

Training would of course be provided!

If you would like to help or would like more details, please contact Adrian Pickett.



Relax &

Create

Are you interested in crafts like card making, scrapbooking, knitting, painting, colouring, crochet.....?

Well this is a space for you to bring along your craft or even learn a new one!

Generally **1st Saturday of each month 12 noon - 5pm**
at Christ Church Methodist Addiscombe.

The next few dates are below.

13th November (2nd Sat)

4th December

8th January (2nd Saturday)



Join us for the whole afternoon or just pop in for a while.

You will be assured of a warm welcome and a cuppa. We only ask for a donation of £5 per session.

Further details - Adele



*See weekly Keeping in Touch sheet
for updates or email me.*

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

SUNDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2021

THEME – CLIMATE CHANGE

at 5pm AT CHURCH AND ON ZOOM

led by Wendy Thompson

We are having hybrid Cafe Worship
so that everyone can be part of it.

All are welcome for an informal hour of worship and fellowship

Wendy Thompson

West Croydon Methodist Church is in need of some help to erect an outside metal storage cupboard. This will take about 2.5 hours with 12 strong people, food and refreshments will be provided. The date is to be arranged dependent on the delivery of the cupboard but it will be on a Saturday. If you can help please contact Alberta Larkai-Doherty. Many thanks for any help you are able to give.

WCMC Leadership Team

Wednesday Club

West Croydon are currently providing 80-100 meals and food parcels to homeless and vulnerable individuals and families on a Wednesday and are in urgent need of people who can help to cook the lunches. If you can commit to one Wednesday a month this would help us enormously. Please contact Alberta Larkai-Doherty (Wednesday Club Co-ordinator). Many thanks, Alberta

MESSY CHURCH RETURNS IN PERSON



Sunday, December 5th : 4 -5 p.m.

Save the date!

Over the past 18 months we have continued to run Messy Church in various ways, sometimes on Zoom and sometimes by sending out ideas for activities either by email or by post. We are now stepping out in faith and planning to operate Messy Church in person at Christ Church from December.

Our first Messy Church back at Christ Church will be from 4- 5p.m. on Sunday 5th December and have an Advent/Christmas theme. It will include craft, games, light refreshments and a worship celebration time. The refreshments will be individually wrapped snacks and drinks and we will be following Covid safety measures. We would like to encourage adults to wear face coverings if they are able. All welcome.

From January, Messy Church will take place on the 4th Sunday of the month (January 23rd).

If you are able to help on a rota basis, please talk to Mary Salter, Sarah Timms or Gill Haslam.

Christingle 2021

Last year we enjoyed a great Christingle service with a wonderful pre-recorded drama on Zoom . This year we are hoping to have a hybrid Christingle Service on Christmas Eve at 5 p.m. live at Christ Church in person, but also on Zoom. More details to follow.

An advent wreath with green pine branches, red and gold ornaments, and two lit yellow candles on a wooden surface.

ADVENT 2021

There will be an Advent study course on Zoom this year using material produced by the Joint Public Issues Team of the Methodist Church which be held on Tuesday evenings.

Wendy Thompson

30 November – Prince of Peace
7 December – Wonderful Counsellor
14 December – Everlasting Father
21 December – Mighty God

OVER THE PAGE ...

One of our preachers, Jeremy Davies, has re-written the last three verses to this famous hymn. We hope that you will want to share it widely.

A HYMN FOR THE PLANET

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works your hand has made.
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
Your power throughout the universe displayed;
*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to you,
How great you are! How great you are!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to you,
How great you are! How great you are!*

But when I think of rapid global warming
and plastic refuse choking up the seas,
I see the clouds of smoke, pollution forming,
and no birds are singing in the trees:
*I turn in shame, Creator God to you:
How we have failed! How we have failed!
I turn in shame, Creator God to you:
How we have failed! How we have failed!*

Forgive, O Lord, our selfish exploitation
of earth's resources, treated as our own.
Help us to end our reckless self-destruction
and teach us all respect for nature's home.
*We bow in shame, creator God to you,
How we have failed! How we have failed!
We bow in shame, creator God to you,
How we have failed! How we have failed!*

Creation waits in eager expectation
To see restored the beauty you once made.
Help us to work to bring its liberation
And see your glory once again displayed.
*Then we shall sing, our Saviour God to you,
How great you are! How great you are!
Then we shall sing, our Saviour God to you,
How great you are! How great you are!*

Refugees

They have no need of our help
So do not tell me
These haggard faces could belong to you or me
Should life have dealt a different hand
We need to see them for who they really are
Chancers and scroungers
Layabouts and loungers
With bombs up their sleeves
Cut-throats and thieves
They are not
Welcome here
We should make them
Go back to where they come from
They cannot
Share our food
Share our homes
Share our countries
Instead let us
Build a wall to keep them out
It is not okay to say
These are people just like us
A place should only belong to those who are born there
Do not be so stupid to think that
The world can be looked at another way.

(now read from bottom to top)

Brian Bilston

Have you heard ...

the story of the novice monk who was told that he was to prepare himself to preach the following week?

With expectation his brothers watched him mount the rostrum. There was a pause and then he asked, “Do you know what I’m going to say?” “No”, they chorused. “Neither do I”, he told them and returned to his place.

He was called before the Abbot. “This won’t do”, he was told. “Go and pray and prepare and try again next week.”

The following week he mounted the pulpit. Again he asked, “Do you know what I’m going to say?” “Yes”, his brothers chorused. “Then there’s no need for me to tell you” and he returned to his seat. Again he was summoned before the Abbot. “This won’t do” he was told. “Go again, pray and prepare. You must preach next Sunday.”

Once more his brother monks watched him mount the pulpit. Once again he asked them “Do you know what I’m going to say?” This time, half of them said yes and half no. That’s good, he told them. “Those of you who know can tell those who don’t” and he sat down.

This time the Abbot was delighted. “Well done” he told him. “That’s what life is all about. Those who know must tell those who don’t.”

“Tell those who are invited that I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle have been slaughtered and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.” Matthew 22:4



on Homelessness this Winter

This information and advice comes from Croydon Council.

Rough Sleeping - Winter Plans for Croydon

- The Government continues to discourage the provision of collective shelter for the homeless during the COVID-19 pandemic. For this reason, Croydon Churches' Floating Shelter (CCFS) will NOT be operating this winter too (2021/22).
- Croydon Council is trying to procure 10 extra hotel rooms for the winter.
- Since Brexit, the Council is limited with the help it can provide to those with no recourse to public funds or from the European Economic Area.
- Under the Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) - a Government initiative to prevent deaths of people sleeping rough during the winter - the Council will have up to 6 beds available when night temperatures go below zero.
- Across the country there is increasing anxiety around winter provision and voluntary sector groups are adjusting to a new way of delivering (due to COVID19) - *Homeless Link*

What to do if you see someone sleeping rough this winter (bedded down in the open air). Ask them whether they are already known to services.

- *If they are*, contact Croydon Reach (a dedicated service for rough sleepers in Croydon) on CRDuty@thamesreach.org.uk
- *If they are not*, contact Street Link so that they can get visited and verified as rough sleepers. You will need to contact them via their [website](#), where you will be asked to register yourself to be able to alert them of anyone over the age of 18 sleeping rough. you can call them on 0300 500 0914. If you think they are under 18, contact the Police at 999. Once they are verified by Street Link rapid response team, they will be referred to Croydon Reach (who will help them to identify suitable housing and support them with other problems - mental health, substance misuse)

Information to provide to homeless users who want to have a COVID-19 vaccine:

- A list of all the Walk in and pop up clinics in South West London (this is regularly updated; at present we have Centrale Shopping Centre, Mayday Community Pharmacy in Thornton Heath, McCoigs Pharmacy in South Croydon, Aumex Pharmacy in New Addington) [Walk-in and pop up vaccination clinics - South West London CCG \(swlondonccg.nhs.uk\)](https://www.swlondonccg.nhs.uk) They do not need to be registered with a GP.



Remembrance Day Crossword Puzzle

						2			4						
					3										
				9											
										6					
								5							
				1										8	
	10														
									7						

Across

1. Symbol of a country
3. Harmony, characterised by lack of violence
5. Awarded to a person as a form of recognition
7. Circular band of flowers and foliage
10. To keep safe from harm or danger

Down

2. Person who has fought in a war
4. People admired for brave deeds and noble qualities
6. Hostile encounter or engagement between opposing military forces
8. A battle or combat
9. An identifying outfit or style of dress

CIRCUIT MINISTER'S LETTER - REVD NADINE WILKINSON



I miss the thin places of the South African escarpment, with names like *Mpumalanga* - “the place where the sun rises” - *Pilgrim’s Rest* and *God’s Window*.

Reaching these high places is never a matter of driving or walking in a straight line to the top. The direct route is steep. The switchback roads and paths make a way.

On a switchback, you’re moving forwards until you make a 180 degree turn and continue in the opposite direction. The rocks and ravines lower down the hillside look both the same and different as you pass them again and again, and each time they seem just a bit further away. You’re never backtracking because each switchback is leading you closer to the top. It takes time, but one does finally reach the summit.

As we re-imagine and create new lives with our experience of the Covid pandemic in mind, it can easily feel as though we're backtracking. Perhaps, as much we try, we just can't get things the way we want them: at home, at work or in church. Sometimes it might feel as though we're going backwards and not forwards. But what if we're moving along a switchback?

You notice a switchback when you take time to look in the direction from which you've come. The most difficult aspect of these paths is often the bit where they double back. The paths themselves slope gently but we might need to climb steeply to get to the next stretch. That's more difficult, even when we can see that the path ahead will flatten out again.

In *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction*, Eugene H. Peterson describes how even people of faith are in a hurry to acquire something worthwhile at once because our sense of reality has been flattened by all the shortened versions of actual human experiences. He borrows the title of his book from Friedrich Nietzsche's words: *The essential thing "in heaven and earth" is ... that there should be long obedience in the same direction; there thereby results, and has always resulted in the long run, something which has made life worth living.*"

Are these words just hard to read, or in them do we find a key to our resilience? The prophet Jeremiah asks, *"If you have raced with [people] on foot, and they have wearied you, how will you compete with horses?"* (Jeremiah 12:5).

I pray that we find ourselves in a community of faith where we can talk about the paths we are really walking with honesty and compassion so that, when we reach the places to which we're heading, we can remember how we helped one another on the way.

Rev'd Nadine Wilkinson



Covid-19 has thrown into sharp focus the many injustices which shape our world today. Vaccine inequality, gender injustice and youth unemployment have all risen sharply as a result of the pandemic – and so there has never been a better time for organisations to come together to tackle these challenges.

That is why, from 1 September 2021, All We Can began a formal partnership with Y Care International – the relief and development agency of the YMCAs in England and Wales, Scotland and Ireland. Together, All We Can and Y Care International will combine efforts to tackle poverty, inequality and injustice in some of the world’s most vulnerable communities.

United by our commitment to working with talented change-makers rooted in local communities, our shared Christian faith, and our drive to fearlessly challenge poverty and injustice, the union of All We Can and Y Care International will enable millions of people of all faiths and none across the globe to see their potential fulfilled. Our shared values, and relational, collaborative way of working with international partners will ensure this new arrangement enables both charities to continue transforming lives.

Y Care International will remain a separate charitable body, but all its services will be fulfilled by All We Can, and together, they will work

towards the missions and operations of both charities. Driven by the principles of All We Can's partnership approach, which are shared by Y Care International, and recognises the unique strengths of each organisation, All We Can and Y Care International will both maintain their individual identities– but one joint staff team will deliver the work.

Working together with Y Care International provides an exciting opportunity for us to truly do 'all the good you can'. All We Can and Y Care International began sharing experiences more than two years ago, when Y Care International sought to understand and embrace All We Can's partnership approach.

With many similarities between our two organisations, All We Can and Y Care International began to explore ways of working more closely together earlier this year. Driven by All We Can's 2020-2025 strategy, deepening our relationship with Y Care International – who share many of our values and are, like us, deeply rooted in the Christian faith – means countless more lives will be transformed.

All We Can will continue to operate in the same way – and as an All We Can supporter, everything you know and love about our work will remain the same. However, joining together with Y Care International will allow us to invite even more talented organisations and churches to engage with our innovative, locally-led partnership approach, and support ever-more people to see their potential fulfilled.

CATHERINE PORTER IS BUSY IN JAPAN!

Dear Friends,

I finally arrived in Sendai on 16th October. Whereas the first four weeks in Japan had been hard, as I went to church at Sendai North Christ Church on the 17th, I was very aware of how much the members had been praying for me. I felt so welcomed straight away. A church member currently working on the Southern island of Okinawa built a house for his elderly parents very near the church here. His parents have since entered a care home and he is open to renting me the house. If this door remains open, I can hope to be settled there by mid to late November.

Pastor Sato and his wife Ritsuko have stressed that they want to support me in what God places on my heart and that they don't want to take advantage of me! I answered that I'm willing to serve them and the church in any way that I can. They are hoping that someone with a heart for the younger women in the church will start a Bible study. For the moment, I plan to build up friendships with people in the church as well as trying to get to know non-Christian people in the local neighbourhood.

Next week, I am off on my first concert tour on the northern island of Hokkaido. I will also share 35 minutes as part of the worship service at Kurisawa Church which has around 15 members who over 40 years have worshipped and outreached together. In September, they were able to build a new church building. I hope that by going there, I will be able to provide an opportunity for them to invite their neighbours inside the church to hear the Gospel. After returning to Sendai for a few days, I will then travel to Tokyo for a concert on the 13th.

In other news, over the last year there have been a number of changes in WEC in the UK. We have been given a statement to

include in newsletters to help share what these changes will mean. I've copied the statement below. For those people who currently support me financially, I will send a separate letter individually. Please feel free to write to me if you have any questions concerning the statement. I think that's what I want to share for now: thank you so much for your prayers and support, and I look forward to hearing from you when you can write.

A short statement from WEC UK & Ireland about recent significant developments:

For many years, WEC members have been considered to be volunteers. As a result of some essential research recently, it has become clear that due to the way WEC operates, WEC members cannot be considered to be volunteers, from a legal perspective. Having investigated numerous courses of action a decision has recently been taken by the trustees that all WEC UK & Ireland members will adopt an employment status called 'Voluntary Worker'. WEC UK & Ireland will become an employer of Voluntary Workers, taking on employer responsibilities but without paying salaries. The Voluntary Worker status was established in the National Minimum Wage Act 1998 to enable charities operating like WEC to continue to do so and to cover charity workers who choose not to take a salary.

This decision means that WEC can no longer offer financial assistance to its members or channel financial support on behalf of individual members. Other ways have been identified to enable WEC members to receive financial support from their supporters that will not have to pass through WEC. For those who would like to give to WEC members financially, each member will provide instructions for how these gifts can be given.

Thank you for your continued prayers for us as individuals and as an organisation, especially during this season of significant change. We very much value walking the journey together with you.

Weekly Services and Meetings at Christ Church <i>(We hope that 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	Crêche		
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	8654 5481
Church Stewards		Andrew Thynne Adrian Pickett Alex St John Natalie Thomas Fiona Assaly Zoe Rogers-Wright Karen Taylor	
Sunday morning services only →			
Sunday morning services only →			
Sunday morning services only →			
Room Bookings		Pat Bates	