



CONNEXION



Spring is coming!

**The magazine of
Christ Church Methodist, Addiscombe
FEBRUARY 2022**

**Minister: Revd Soon Cheol Choi 020 8654 5481
114 Lower Addiscombe Road, Croydon CRO 6AD**

www.christchurchmeth.org.uk

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

WORSHIP

FEBRUARY		
Sunday 10.30am	6	Morning Worship on Zoom and in Church – Revd Cameron Kirkwood
Sunday 10.30am	13	RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY All Age Worship on Zoom and in Church – Revd Choi
Sunday 10.30am 5.00pm	20	STUDENT SUNDAY Morning Worship on Zoom and in Church – Ms Avis Blair Cafe Worship on Zoom and in Church
Sunday 10.30am 4.00pm	27	Holy Communion on Zoom and in Church – Revd Choi Messy Church

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 just 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/Andrew Thynne.

Cafe Worship on Sunday 20 February 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.

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FOOD BANK DONATIONS

There will be an opportunity to make a donation to the Food Bank on Saturday 12 February between 10.30am and 12 noon at church. Thank you. Sue



Welcome to the February 2022 edition. We hope you enjoy reading the magazine. Any suggestions to Fiona please 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 MARCH 2022 by **Sunday 20 February 2022** either 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

Belonging, not just believing

⁴ For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. (Romans 12. 4-5)

Dear friends,

This short passage from Paul's letter to Romans clearly shows that we, Christians are called to belong, not just believe. Of course, believing is important, and must be a primary factor as Christians. But, here Paul seems to emphasise that 'belonging' is as important as 'believing'. What we need to note is that we are created for community. As we see from the story of Genesis, even in the perfect environment of Eden, God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone". Therefore, we are to be asked to form a family and to belong to each other. In God's family we are members, and connected to every other believer. In this sense, to Paul, being a member of the church meant being a vital part of a living body, an interconnected part of the body of Christ.

You may know that we, Methodists, have a strong tradition of membership which originated from the very beginning of Methodism. One of the reasons for setting up the membership system was that in the early days of Methodism, Methodists were often persecuted, and preachers were accused or even arrested. So, they needed to identify those who came to worship in the Methodist Church, for the security purposes. But, nowadays, we don't see those things happen to us. And, we are living in a society, where we can go anywhere and worship God freely. And, we don't get persecuted as Methodists, though we do get persecuted sometimes as Christians.

Now then, in this twenty first century church, can we discard our membership tradition? The answer is 'No'. There are some reasons for that. And, one of the main reasons must be this: if we look at the membership booklet carefully, we can see that what is required to be a member is exactly the same as what the discipleship requires of us.

Therefore, the point of our membership is to make disciples in our tradition. That's all. And, we are on the journey, the journey of learning and growing to be true, faithful disciples, loving and caring each other. On this journey, I believe, it would be much, much better to have a proper relationship with the church, which will give more opportunities to serve.

Now, I am planning to start a membership class in March. If you are interested in our membership and want to be a member, then don't hesitate to contact me. I am more than happy to help you.

Every blessing,
Choi.

A 'PULPIT' NOTICE FROM THE CIRCUIT

The circuit stewards are pleased to announce that following a visit to the circuit last week, Revd Richard Lowson has been offered and accepted, subject to Methodist Conference, the opportunity to serve in the Croydon Circuit as minister from September 2022 with pastoral charge of Addington, Christ Church and Shirley. Thank you to everyone involved in welcoming Revd Lowson last week.

23 January 2022

We have received the sad news that Revd David Holland, a former minister of Addiscombe and Cherry Orchard Road Methodist churches from 1971-1976 (or thereabouts) died on 25 January at the age of 89. His funeral will be held at Trinity Methodist/URC church in Sutton at 1.30 p.m. on Thursday 17th February. All are welcome. Please can you pass this message on to anyone who might remember David.

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

There was cause for celebration for a couple of our church families in December:

Sarah (Claire and Andy Peacock's daughter) and Will married on 4 December after having to defer their wedding from 2020. And Claire and Andy celebrated their Ruby Wedding a week later on 11 December.

Jacqui (Pauline and Rob Little's daughter) and Raph welcomed their daughter Verity Paula Francis into the world on 22 December, a sister for Bella (and Verity spent Christmas and Boxing Days with her family!).

Very many congratulations to them all.

Bob Horne has reason to celebrate on 16 February when he turns 70. Happy birthday Bob – what music will you play to ring in a new decade?!

Greetings from Cambridge

I would like to thank all those who sent me cards, letters, photographs and good wishes for Christmas. It was lovely to hear from so many people. At 90, I am now in a care home but getting on all right. Love and best wishes from Janet Houghton

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.

Relax and Create

**will be meeting on
Saturdays 5 February and 5 March
between 12 noon-5.00pm at church**

for you to practice and enjoy your handicrafts, receive a warm welcome - and a cuppa

(Donation - £5 per session)

*See weekly Keeping in Touch sheet
for updates or email me.
The zoom link will be on the
Keeping in Touch sheet*



SUNDAY 20 FEBRUARY 2022 at 5pm

Led by Wendy Thompson

hybrid Cafe Worship
join us on zoom or at church
everyone can be part of it.

All are welcome for an informal hour of worship and fellowship

Wendy Thompson

ENCOUNTERING GOD IN THE BIBLE



The next bible study will be on Friday
25 February 2022 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 or the side entrance.

February Friend

Here we are in February
The month of my birth
Those of us born in this month
Are honest and down to earth
Within our friendships
We include much mirth.

We like a laugh
And are quite good at jokes
We tell them to ladies
And of course to blokes.

It is the month of Valentine's
When hearts turn to love
Buying cards and flowers
And thanking the Lord above.

For all the friends we make
And for all those we have still
We try to spread happiness
As we know it is God's will.

We work hard at all we do
Until the job is done
And only then we start to look
For ways to have some fun.

So if you have a February friend
Though platonic or even in love
You'll find we go the extra mile
Walking hand in glove.



Bob Horne - 14 January 2022



For all ages together

Sunday 27th February
27th March
22nd May
4 - 5. p.m.

Craft, games, story and songs.
Snacks and drinks provided

All welcome

**Watch this space for details of Messy Easter event
on Saturday 16th April**

**Christ Church Methodist,
114 Lower Addiscombe Road, Croydon, CR0 6AD**



For more info
email: enquiries@christchurchmeth.org.uk
Or phone 020 86564610



LENT

Life on the
Breadline
Lent course

I will be hosting a Lent course for six Tuesday evenings on zoom starting on 1 March 2022. The six sessions will be

- 1 March – Christian responses to poverty in the UK
- 8 March – Love thy neighbour – poverty and inequality
- 15 March – Lame from birth, ethnic disparities, austerity and faith
- 22 March – I believe in building people up – how we respond to poverty
- 29 March – Housing injustice
- 5 April – Poverty and structural inequality – causes and symptoms

The material has been prepared by Church Action on Poverty and each session will last about an hour

ALL WE CAN

from their website



We recognise that churches have unique strengths that enable them to make an important contribution to seeing ‘everyone’s potential fulfilled’. These include their closeness to, and legitimacy with, those in need; their long-term presence; their ability to mobilise sustainable voluntary commitment from members; and their potential for local and global advocacy. For many churches and individual Christians responding to injustice and poverty, helping vulnerable and disadvantaged communities to overcome their difficulties and live life to the full are central to their response to the experience of God’s love.

Church CAN is a joint programme from All We Can and the [Global Relationships Team](#) of the Methodist Church in Britain, which provides the link between the British Church and its Partner Churches around the world. The Church CAN programme currently works with churches in India, the Caribbean, Sierra Leone and Southern Africa, and adopts the same partnership approach as All We Can does with all its local partners. We recognise that churches might have a legacy of tens or hundreds of years of work of helping communities to flourish and we seek to build on that. We help these churches identify their strengths and the areas in which they can grow so they become more effective.

Below are just a few examples of ways in which Church CAN is currently supporting the local church:

- In India, Church CAN is working with the Diocese of Jabalpur of the Church of North India, helping them to improve their governance systems and leadership skills
- In Southern Africa, Church CAN is helping the Methodist Church in Southern Africa to develop a strategic plan and capacity development programme for its work in Lesotho
- In Sierra Leone, Church CAN is working with the Methodist Church in Sierra Leone to improve its financial management and the social action work of its local churches

Stopped in My Tracks

Last week I rambled with a group for just 20 minutes and then gave up, turning back down the hill, alone. The sun was shining. It was good to be going home. I am old and don't have the energy for long walks, even with my ramblers stick.

Then, across my path, came a convoy of 5 noisy teenagers. They were on large and complicated wheel chairs, with about 7 escorts. Clearly, the teenagers had severe learning difficulties and one or two of them frequently burst out shouting at the world. They came close enough for me to call good morning greetings; a happy group, probably from a care home, but the noise around them would, I guess, put a lot of people off. They were heading for the park cafe. I imagine they planned to stop at the outside tables as I walked on home.

From the committed way those health escorts interacted it was easy to see there was skill and love there. I am thinking, from the noise and apparent 'out of it' of the wheel-chair people, that they were prone to mental disturbances, or fits. If I'm right on this, then swift action from the escorts would have been needed to prevent self harm.

I have a neighbour, a mother, whose daughter is in a similar condition. Mother has nursed her daughter since

she was born, 27 years ago. Her daughter has always suffered seizures through the day and night. Dad, who watches, told me it is not unusual for his daughter to have 3 or 4 fits before breakfast. But the difference between my mother and daughter neighbours and those in the park, is the constant silence and unseen thread of bonding between mother and daughter. Imagine the need for daily 24 hour vigilance for all of those years, without ever one break; I call that unconditional love.

Christians would say that all the love that Jesus taught, and showed, was unconditional. But 24 hours mothering, with frequent seizures for such a lifetime, takes my breath away – and mother still has time to share an occasional joke when we pass on the pavement!

Memories of **Primary School 1940s**



Like all children, I went to the nearest primary school as soon as I was five years old. We progressed up the school as soon as we were ready so could spend one term or two years in each class.

My parents encouraged me so when I started school could read and tell the time and was in the top class for two years. Our teacher Mr Peoples was liked by most children as he often told of his experiences in the army during the Second World War, which we studied during history even though we could all remember it.

There were about 49 children in the class, sitting two to a desk with one teacher – no teaching assistants then. Mr Peoples like many teachers kept a slipper (plimsoll) in his pocket. The girls who misbehaved were hit on the hand but the boys had to bend over. We were all relieved when a visitor appeared on one occasion when Terry was being beaten and Mr Peoples had lost his temper.

One lunchtime, I went home in tears. I had brown ribbons on my pigtails and the girl behind me – Sally, an extremely pretty blonde – had removed the ribbons (later to be worn for Brownies) and flushed them down the loo! Money was tight at home and Mum was furious and came with me in the afternoon. Sally's mum had to replace them.

Every term, Nitty Nora checked us all for nits. Two girls were often given special treatment – Pamela who lived with her 12 siblings and parents in a three bedroomed house, one a box room. June was also one of a family with six or seven siblings. I was often

warned not to walk home with her but I usually did. When she left school, things must have improved as she worked in the local baker's shop.

In Christmas term 1949, all children over 10 who had never been to the circus were asked to stay behind. The local council had organised a trip to Bertram Mills Circus and our school had about 20 places. Any children who had spent Christmas in hospital were first to be chosen and then just those from the top class. We all had a fabulous day. At that time there were lions, tigers and an elephant as well as performing horses, clowns and trapeze artists.

Six of us passed the 11 plus and went to grammar school, the girls all going to Mitcham County and the boys to Rutlish – a little later attended by John Major.

After secondary school, the children in my class had various jobs. Myself and another boy became chartered accountants, Diana was a senior private secretary, Elizabeth (the daughter of a police sergeant) a domestic science teacher, Colin followed his father as an auctioneer. Several got jobs in shops or factories. Ronnie was from a notorious criminal family and joined the family but later became a builder. Several of the boys had manual jobs in building and factories.

I have many happy memories of those years.

Sheila Szzvanowski

MINISTER'S LETTER

What will the future be?

Do you know the song, 'Que Sera Sera (Whatever will be, will be)'? It was first sung by Doris Day in the Alfred Hitchcock film, The Man Who Knew Too Much (1956).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3FKA-3uRdQY>

The sentiments expressed were such that irrespective of the questions asked, there wasn't a wiser response than – 'whatever will be, will be'. I'm not so sure that's the response our Superintendent has in looking for from members of this circuit to the questions posed in his paper, 'Envisioning the future mission of the Circuit'. We cannot just hold up our hands and say, "Que sera sera!"

I'm sitting in my study and looking out my window at the open land across the road from where we live. I can't see much else around me. I'm presently self-isolating because my wife contracted Covid on our return from holiday and although I'm *legally allowed out, I believe I'm morally bound to protect those around me*. However, if I did go outside, I wouldn't be able to NOT see Addington Methodist Church next door. A church where my wife is a member, where she worships and is heavily involved. A church whose doors have remained open during an incredibly difficult time for all – members, community, country, world alike.

As a church we have our problems, just like everybody else. Funds are limited, getting necessary and important positions filled is not easy. A church which was opened in 1950 and extended in 1959, due to the growth and development in membership. Today, it's like almost every other church in our circuit, looking to find answers to nearly impossible questions: How to increase income, serve the community, increase membership and a host of others? Answers to difficult questions need to be found! Que sera sera will not do!

I do a Covid test every day to see if my status has changed. I put a stick with a cotton tip up my nose, move it around 5x and then put it into a tube with liquid in it. Move it around for 30 seconds and then carefully remove it and squeeze all the liquid off before closing the tube and then mixing thoroughly before placing 4 drops into the base of the testing 'thing' to get a result. What a relief when only one red line shows near the top after waiting for 15-30 minutes and I know the result is negative.

I wish it were as easy to get the results of the questions asked in the Superintendent's paper!

For me and my wife (and anybody else testing themselves for Covid) it takes time and diligence to get a result. Do it right! Make sure you do it right! And then pray you get the result you want!

My challenge to our circuit and its members is as follows –

- READ the paper thoroughly (read the words of the hymn below then go for a long walk)
- Take note of the questions asked (go for a long walk)
- Talk to others about the questions and possible answers (have a cup of tea or coffee)
- Prayerfully consider your answers – but do ANSWER the questions (by whatever means you must! (Go for a long walk)
- Share your answers with others and send them to the Circuit Leadership Team. (You can now sit down and have a break!)

Dorothy Ann Thrupp (1779-1847) penned these words –

*He walks with God who speaks to God in prayer,
And daily brings to him his daily care;
Possessing inward peace, he truly knows
A heart's refreshment and a sure repose.*

I recommended 'a long walk' several times in my letter so far, particularly after reading the words of the hymn by Dorothy Thrupp.

Simply because, walking is good for you and it stimulates your thinking and your being. It also gives you an opportunity to think through what it is you've read, been doing, or even reading and listening to. Nelson Mandela's biography 'A Long Walk to Freedom' is a study in perseverance and fortitude. We need to persevere and have patience and strength to find the answers we need. God wants us to find the answers because he is interested in every facet of our lives AND the life of our Circuit. We are privileged, blessed, and designed by God to be in this circuit. We are all important to the future progress and development of the churches we belong and serve in this Circuit.

For God's sake Do your part.

May God bless you,
Bennie Harms (Lay Pastor)





on MHA Communities South London

MHA, the UK's largest charity care provider, has launched MHA Communities South London to tackle loneliness and isolation in older people who live independently within their own home. The new scheme, based at the Wilderness garden, will provide social and meaningful activities to Croydon's communities and further afield.

Over the past two years or so, MHA have been working hard to reclaim and conserve the historic Wilderness Garden at MHA Hall Grange Care Home. MHA Communities South London will provide a programme of social and engaging activities like our programme of Green Care (Social Therapeutic Horticulture), but also coffee mornings; lunch clubs; wellbeing walks and more social initiatives that will bring benefits to local communities. Some activities will take place at the Wilderness garden like Coffee Mornings every second Thursday of the month. We will be serving tea, coffee and bakery free of charge and have a stroll around the Wilderness garden. MHA Communities South London will also provide Green Care activities to Hall Grange residents. In order to achieve this, we are looking at volunteers that can help us deliver activities to local people and care home residents. Anyone who would like to find out about volunteering at MHA to help with activities please inform our MHA Communities Manager Marco Galli. Please get in contact with Marco Galli at E: southlondon@mha.org.uk - M: 07597 135220

Here is a list of services we will provide:-

Befriending: A trained volunteer regularly visits a lonely older person to develop and maintain a friendship - usually for 1 to 2 hours weekly. As part of the visit there may be a practical purpose, such as reading a newspaper to a visually impaired person, or accompanying the member shopping. It may include a recreational activity.

Coffee Morning: give older people the opportunity to leave the house, and to meet old friends and make new ones in a warm and friendly setting giving people the chance to socialise and take part in activities.

Daily Telephone Check: To provide older people with a daily telephone call to check they are safe and well and so they may continue to live independently.

Exercise / Physical Activity: Members are encouraged to participate in physical activities to help maintain mobility and well-being. An exercise class is typically 1 hour in duration, and may include refreshments after the activity.

Lunch Clubs: Lunch Clubs give people the chance to socialise while enjoying a hot, healthy, balanced and nutritious meal.

Newsletters, Signposting and Info service: A confidential information and advice service is provided for members on a range of subjects. Information is provided to enable members to make informed decisions about the range of services available for them to access. Suggestions are made, and details provided of other agencies that will be able to help with specific problems. The service may be undertaken within the context of one-to-one befriending, attendance at activities, telephone or through visits to the service.

Telephone Befriending: Telephone befriending provides regular contact for an older person who may feel lonely or isolated. The

frequency and duration of the call will vary on the model of service provided. This may be a 2 or 3 minute check or prompt call, or a 20 minute chat. A viable service is expected to support at least 10 members each week.

Activities for people living with Dementia in the community: the service provides a place where people who have been diagnosed with memory loss or dementia or their carers can talk to an experienced volunteer or a professional member of the local team. The service provides a safe and supportive place for attendees to do the following: Discuss your own dementia diagnosis, or someone else's and think about what it means for the future; Get answers from health professionals and meet and learn from other people in similar situations; Keep active, make new friends and feel more confident. These things can make a huge difference when you or someone you know has dementia.

These are some of the services that MHA Communities South London will provide. In order to do so, we are looking for venues and volunteers to fulfil our charity's mission: tackle loneliness and isolation in older people.

Green Care Open Day - Visit us on Monday 14th February from 11am until 2pm at the Wilderness garden to discover more about our programme of Green Care activities. By attending our Open Day, you are invited to explore the benefit of outdoor and indoor green care workshops: experiencing the sound of nature and how to connect with the outdoor, and a nature-based craft activity inspired by the season. The Open Day is FREE but please RSVP to our invitation. *MHA Communities South London at the Wilderness, 17 Shirley Church Road, Croydon CR9 5AL*
Email: southlondon@mha.org.uk – Mobile: 07597 135 220

An Update from Catherine Porter

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! It's hard to believe it's 2022 already: in many ways I feel like the last 4 months have flown by! I hope your Christmases were blessed and that you are feeling refreshed even amidst the uncertainties of life at the moment. I had my last concert on December 26th, and since then have had a good time of rest as well as opportunities to meet both old and new friends. I'm now feeling ready to work again and excited about things to come!

A number of new people came into the church for the services. I felt privileged to have been part of the reason these people were there. The Gospel message was spoken from the Pastor's heart: I felt honoured to be working together with him and with this church.

On the 24th, there were again many guests. The thing that made me happiest is that the family who live opposite me came. I'm praying for more opportunities to build relationship with this family in the months to come.

At the moment, I have one lady learning the harp with me. She is Christian and would like to be able to serve her church with music as well as perhaps playing in local care homes. For various reasons, she goes to church a long way away from where she lives so it is hard for her to invite local friends to events. She was able to come to the concert and invite different friends from her work place as well as another lady with an interest in learning harp. I'm grateful for these opportunities to witness and share God's love.



Over the last month or so, I've spent time building up relationships with the younger (20/30s) girls at church. From January, my hope is that they

will come to lunch at my house once a month after church and that we will be able to read the Bible and pray together.

At the moment, there are very few Covid cases in Japan. However, the social pressures not to be meeting together are still strong. Some churches are still choosing to meet online rather than in person and are choosing not to do outreach through concert-like events. I have a lot less concerts planned for this year than I would have done before Covid. It may be that more invitations will come in as time goes on, or it may not. Please could you pray for me in this? At the moment, I am praying that there will be places I can help through harp concerts and testimony. But, if invitations don't come, I will use the time to do outreach in different ways. Thank you for your prayers over the Christmas period! Praying that you will have a blessed 2022!

With love,
Catherine

Weekly Services and Meetings at Christ Church

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

09.15	Holy Communion (2 nd Sun)		
09.00	Time for quiet prayer (Zoom)		
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)		
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Wednesday

18.30	Guides		
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Thursday

09.30	0-5 Stay & Play		
18.45	Brownies		

Minister	Revd Soon Cheol Choi	8654 5481
Church Stewards		
	Sunday morning services only →	
	Sunday morning services only →	
	Sunday morning services only →	
Room Bookings		

