



# CONNEXION



*Thank you , God bless and au revoir to Choi and Sarah and Happy Holidays to all our readers*

**The magazine of  
Christ Church Methodist, Addiscombe  
JULY / AUGUST 2022**

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[www.christchurchmeth.org.uk](http://www.christchurchmeth.org.uk)

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

## WORSHIP

JULY		
Sunday 10.30am	3	Morning Worship on Zoom and in Church – Mr Alistair Macfarlane
Sunday 10.30am	10	<b>ACTION FOR CHILDREN SUNDAY</b> All Age Worship on Zoom and in Church – Revd Dr Leslie Griffiths
Sunday 10.30am  5.00pm	17	Morning Worship on Zoom and in Church – Church Stewards and members of the congregation Café Worship led by Wendy Thompson
Sunday 10.30am  6.30pm	24	Holy Communion on Zoom and in Church – Rev Choi <i>[Choi's last service at Christ Church]</i> Circuit Farewell Service at Shirley MC for Revd Choi, Revd Nadine Wilkinson and Bennie Harms <i>(refreshments from 4.30pm)</i>
Sunday 10.30am	31	Holiday Club style All Age Worship on Zoom and in Church <i>followed by informal</i> <i>Farewell Barbecue with Choi and Sarah</i>
AUGUST		
Sunday 10.30am	7	Morning Worship on Zoom and in Church – Ruby Koomson
Sunday 10.30am	14	Holy Communion on Zoom and in Church – Revd Stephen Day
Sunday 10.30am	21	Morning Worship on Zoom and in Church – Mr Bennie Harms
Sunday 10.30am	28	Morning Worship on Zoom and in Church – Revd Pam Clews
SEPTEMBER		
Thursday 7.30pm	1	Circuit Welcome Service for Revds Gyula Fiak and Richard Lawson at 7.30pm at Downsview MC. <i>(refreshments from 6.00pm)</i>

**Christ Church worship** normally 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 17 July 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 July/August 2022 edition.** We hope you enjoy reading the magazine. Any suggestions to Fiona please or email [bingham144@hotmail.com](mailto: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 2022** by Sunday 21 August by email to [ccmamagazine@hotmail.com](mailto:ccmamagazine@hotmail.com).. Requests for email version to above address. Thanks as always to all contributors. *Editorial team*

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## **JULY / AUGUST COFFEE MORNINGS**

There’ll be a chance to catch up with your friends at coffee mornings on Saturdays 9 July and 13 August between 10.30am and 12 noon at Christ Church - outside, weather permitting. Why not celebrate the summer with a relaxed sit down and a cuppa? Hope you can make it.



## **FOOD BANK DONATIONS**

If you wish, there’ll also be an opportunity to donate to the Food Bank at the same time.



## SUPERINTENDENT'S LETTER

### **For all that has been, thanks**

The recent Queen's platinum jubilee celebrations gave welcome opportunities to gather together and look back over the past seven decades.

Within our circuit we give thanks for the ministries of Revd Soon Cheol Choi, Revd Nadine Wilkinson and Mr Bennie Harms. We remember their contributions to our lives and the collective life of our churches and circuit. We look forward to the circuit leaving service on Sunday 24 July at 6.30 pm following a tea from 4.30 pm.

On a more sombre note, I write this letter on the fifth anniversary of the Grenfell Tower fire. We remember the 72 people who tragically died in that fire and the survivors and bereaved families who have worked together for justice and change in their memory.

Rowan Williams and Joan Chittister wrote the book *For All That Has Been, Thanks: Growing a sense of gratitude*. I share some thoughts from the chapter written by Joan Chittister entitled *Future*. It is in times of remembering that it is good also to consider the future. Choi and Sarah, Nadine and Francis, Bennie and Jenny leave the circuit to begin a new phase in their lives. We who remain continue to prepare to welcome Revds Gyula Fiak and Richard Lowson and all they will bring to our life together.

The future is a vessel into which we tend to pour our hopes and fears; it can be a panacea for some and a threat to others. "It is at the edge of the future that we walk off the side of a cliff into the arms of God." The spiritual challenge presented by the future is to accept it before we know it. However, rather than embrace the

unknown, from day to day, intent on the future we want for ourselves, we may be inclined to escape the present or cast it in stone. However, it is not so much what happens to us in the future that counts but the attitudes we take to it that make all the difference between a future that is full or frustrating.

The future, the unknown factor in all our lives, calls us always to live with untried courage. Only our willingness to face the future can enable us to discover more about ourselves than we realised was possible. When we embrace the future we can discover how the opportunities, challenges and choices we face allow us to grow in ways that may seem improbable or impossible. Embracing the future is taking “the courage and faith and effort it will take to wring out of us every last drop of character, every ounce of faith, every trembling “yes” to the God of surprises.”

May God help us to embrace the unknown future with courage, faith and hope.

God bless,

*Sten*

## **ENCOUNTERING GOD IN THE BIBLE**

The next bible study will be on Friday  
15 July from 10.30am-12 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.

## CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

First of all, the time is rapidly approaching when our Minister Choi and Sarah will be leaving us after five years in Croydon. We wish them both every happiness, Choi on his retirement and Sarah as they both travel to Korea to be with her mother. After so long living in the UK and having their children and grandchildren close by, this will be quite an adjustment and we pray that their time in Korea will be rewarding for both Sarah's mother and for them. We hope they will keep in touch as they settle down in Korea.

We were delighted to hear of the birth of Theo on 15 June, a son for Kirsty and Luke Bassett and a grandson for Beth and Malcolm Holmes. Both Kirsty and Theo are doing well and I hear that Luke is very much a hands-on dad. Very many congratulations to them all.

There are some special occasions coming up in July and August: Pam Clews has a special birthday on 27 July and Terence Timms is 21 on 9 August. Alan and Veronica Hickox (Gill Haslam's brother and his wife) celebrate their Golden Wedding on 5 August. Both Alan and Veronica were very active members of both Christ Church and the previous church until they moved to Hampshire some years ago. We send our love and congratulations to all those mentioned and anyone who celebrates a birthday or anniversary in the coming months.

We remember all our friends who have been unwell in our prayers, especially those we haven't seen for a while, that they remain strong in the knowledge of God's love for them all.

*Please phone/send any family news to Fiona Assaly: 020 8654 1296 or [bingham144@hotmail.com](mailto: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.*

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## Community Jubilee Party

Many, many thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of our Community Jubilee Party on June 4<sup>th</sup>.

Although it was cloudy in the morning when the gazebos and stall were being put up by the time the visitors arrived we were blessed with warm sunshine. It was wonderful to see so many of our church family present as well as welcoming an unexpectedly large number of folk from our local community who live in the surrounding Addiscombe roads.



The entertainment provided by the Downsvie Pipe Band and the New Esperance Morris dancers really enhanced the afternoon and attracted attention from passers-by and especially when the Pipe Band processed down the road.

Everyone was very appreciative of our efforts as shown by their smiles and their generous donations. Although fund-raising was never the main reason for our Jubilee event we raised an amazing £1,156 which will be split between our local Food bank and the new youth project planned for Ashburton Park.

It was wonderful that this whole event was a team effort with so many people taking part in the planning and on the day itself. I was so proud to be part of the Christ Church family on that day and pray that the success of this memorable Community Jubilee party will be the springboard for future outreach into our local community.

Mary Salter

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



Our next meeting will be on

**SUNDAY 17 JULY 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*

Café Worship will not meet in August but will be back in  
September. I hope you all enjoy the summer.

***Wendy Thompson***

## **Relax and Create**

**will be meeting on Saturday 16 July and on the 1<sup>st</sup>  
Saturday of the month from August onwards  
(ie, 6 August) at 12.00-5.00pm at church**

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

*(Donation - £5 per session)*

## **Oh, I do like to be beside the seaside... HOLIDAY CLUB SUNDAY and FAREWELL**



On Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> July you are invited to Holiday Club style all age Worship at 10.30 a.m. followed by some fun activities and crafts for children and adults with a bit of a Seaside theme. Barbecue lunch provided.

The event will also include the opportunity to say farewell to Rev Choi and Sarah and wish them well on their retirement. All welcome.

*For more info contact Gill Haslam or Andrew Thynne*



### **SUNDAY OFFERINGS**

Sunday Collections and Direct Giving in the 9 months to 31<sup>st</sup> May totalled £28072 compared to a budget of £30280. The church's energy costs have increased significantly as have those of our congregation. Whilst the church letting income is much healthier than it was last year it is still below pre-Covid levels and we therefore anticipate the church will incur a deficit at the end of the financial year in August.

We appreciate some people may be finding it difficult to make ends meet due to the cost of living crisis, but if you are in a position to increase your giving or make a one off gift to the church please consider doing so.

*Finance Committee*

# GOINGS AND COMINGS!

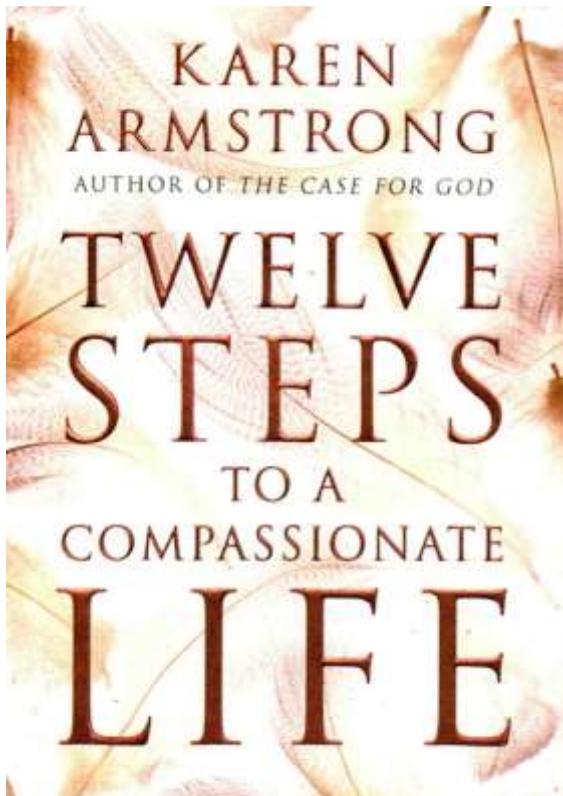
July is come, 2 will go,  
Sarah 'n' Soon,  
We all know as Choi.  
They will be missed,  
Their humorous smiles,  
His sermons, they inform us all,  
And explain some things, wall to wall.

Sarah, a “ceramic artist” of note,  
Is famed for her pottery,  
Well, she’s got my vote.  
They held a garage sale,  
To clear out their clutter,  
For some who went,  
It was their bread and butter.

As July comes to an end,  
We wish them a heartfelt Godsend,  
Off to Korea to look after Mum.  
Then very soon a new Rev. will come,  
We look forward and really know some,  
Are eager to meet the Rev’d Richard Lowson.

Bob Horne  
18/06/2022





This title from a recent book by Karen Armstrong could well be a follow on from Desmond Tutu's 'Truth and Reconciliation' but the purpose behind Karen's work is wider.

Karen, an ex-nun and academic has produced many books that deal with different aspects of religion. Her strength is that she researches and writes about these in the context of world faiths.

'Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life' starts with the Golden Rule and a reminder that, long before and after the teachings in our Gospels, the Golden Rule has been taught in world faiths, starting with Confucius (551-479 BCE) in China.

The Education act of some 30 years ago insisted that every school day must start with a religious assembly and that religious content in the curriculum must include information about world faiths. All this was a challenge to most teachers, many of whom, like myself, held vague views that many faiths were superstitious. Armstrong has corrected such views with her wide research into world faiths.

Her Twelve Steps will also help many specialists outside religious circles, but I worry that our pupils in further education, reach for the Internet instead of books. I urge readers of all ages that this is a book worth reading carefully, and by those from many disciplines, because Armstrong's content is wider than in her former books about faiths. For this work she has also drawn from Darwin's Theory of Evolution and Desmond Morris' The Selfish Gene, placing these against ideas of basic human altruism. Early mankind, she writes was, "ruthlessly selfish, motivated by mechanisms that neuroscientists have called the 'Four Fs': feeding, fighting, fleeing and - for want of a more basic word - reproduction." This is a wide and detailed book for those of us anchored in a faith, and for people of no faith, who are determined to make the world a much better place.

Her long introduction is widely drawn and her chapters are designed for separate sessions. From all her long research this book breaks new ground. I hope you will be as inspired as I have been.

*Rex*

# *Memories of Mitcham Fair*



Mitcham Fair has been held for at least 300 years from 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> August. Originally it was held on Fair Green (now a one-way system) but had moved to Three Piece Green near the pond before I was born. Dad remembered it on the original site.

As a child, I always walked down to see the opening ceremony. The Major and Corporation walked in their robes from the Town Hall opposite the cricket ground to the fair. Mitcham was a borough in its own right. The official opening took place at noon by the roundabout with horses. As soon as the ceremony finished, all the children rushed to jump on a steed for a free ride. The boys were usually first on but a second free ride was available for the slightly slower children, mostly girls. I never missed a ride.

If one of the days was a Sunday, a service was held with fairground workers from far and near attending. The fair never opened on a Sunday, along with cinemas and shops, and only a few children played out on a Sunday. If a Sunday intervened, the fair finished a day later.

One ride I always remember was the Big Lizzie – a large cavernous open area inside which it went up and down. We sat on wooden benches in rows. Once when I was about 12, one of the operators sat by me to stop me being jumped off the seat. It was not very full at the time but I found the experience good fun, if a little scary.

My grandparents told me of a time on Big Lizzie when they were sitting near the back. My grandmother had voluminous skirts and

somebody in front of her had pockets with quite a lot of coins, which ended up in her lap!

Carl and I went to the fair a couple of times when we were engaged. On one stall early in the evening, everything was ½ price a go – 6d (2½ p now) instead of a shilling. We managed to win a pair of fairly thin blankets – one of which we still use as an underblanket 58 years later!

Sheila Szzvanowski



## THE RIGHT HYMN FOR THE JOB



The builder's hymn

The Church's one foundation

The tailor's hymn

Holy, holy, holy

The golfer's hymn

There is a green hill far away

The astronaut's hymn

Nearer my God to thee

The fisherman's hymn

Shall we gather at the river

The historian's hymn

Tell me the old, old story



## on Circuit Platinum Jubilee celebrations

Some of the recent Platinum Jubilee celebrations around the Circuit:-

### **Addington**



#### **Jubilee BBQ fit for a Queen**

Addington Methodist Church members and the local community gathered for a Platinum Jubilee BBQ on Saturday 4 June.

The BBQ celebrating Queen Elizabeth II's 70-year-long reign saw members tuck into hot dogs, burgers and raised cash towards the cost of running and repairing the church, which was built two years before the coronation in 1950.



Church members and the local community came together inside the church following early morning rain to listen to music, collectively solve jigsaw puzzles and finally tuck into ice cream, fruit salad, cake and cups of coffee or tea.

Thanks to all the church members who decorated the church hall with red, white and blue bunting, cooked and served food throughout the festivities.

## Christ Church



### **Community Jubilee Party**

Christ Church were blessed with sunshine on Jubilee Saturday and welcomed a capacity number of local folk to their Community Jubilee Party. There were stalls run by church members and hirers, a range of children's activities, plenty of refreshments and excellent entertainment from Morris Dancers and the Downsview Boy's Brigade band. It was a wonderful and uplifting occasion for all who attended.

## Downsview



### **Working with our neighbours**

The message on our poster was simple: Bring some food to share and get to know your neighbours.

In previous years, our church, Downsview Methodist, has held a Barbeque for our church community and local neighbours, Parchmore Methodist Church has hosted a

Big Lunch and our local residents' association has organised street parties. Drawing on this experience, we all started to plan for the event together.

Although not hot, the weather stayed kind throughout the party. Bunting and balloons decorated trees and lampposts and brightened up the church hall. We borrowed tables from Parchmore and set ours



up in the road and around the church car park. There was a bouncy castle in the church garden, games and games and activities in the hall organised by the Girls and Boys Brigades and Downsview Players, including an inspired handmade "Guess the Hat" activity. Guests from our Lunch Club enjoyed a picnic style lunch in the hall where volunteers were busy making tea and coffee for everyone.

Outside in the Church car park, face painters were busy next to the very popular barbeque. The 5<sup>th</sup> Croydon Pipe band played in the road, uniting all the guests in glorious music and encouraging neighbours out of their houses to see what was going on. The Residents' Association had organised more music, a raffle, free ice cream from our local ice cream van and a visit from a fire engine. They also invited a former mayor and representatives from the local police. A baking competition was judged by representatives from the church and the Residents Association, sharing the entries among the guests after judging.

So, did we achieve what we set out to do? Throughout the event, there was a real buzz. People were chatting to other people as they got to know their neighbours better, whether working together to make the day a success or during the meal. There was certainly enough food!

Working together meant a larger team of helpers to cover all the jobs, more people to discuss ideas or concerns with, new people to get to know. Would we do it again? Definitely! It was an example of working *with and as a part of* our community - something we can build on in future.

## Shirley



*Photos courtesy of Steve Hunt*



"The first community event I've been to since Covid". This was a comment heard many times at our Jubilee Community Garden Party. What a community event it was! Shirley Methodist Church - bedecked in bunting were delighted to welcome over 400 people.

Our Welcome table was run by our young people who greeted everyone with a big smile.

There were free children's activities – including the very popular face painting and a magician! We had charity stalls, a range of entertainments and of course tea and cakes. What was so special was the range of ages represented, from babies playing with toys under a gazebo in the grounds to those of a more advanced age (at least 4 guests were over 90 years old!)

Most of our guests were from our neighbourhood but we were delighted to spot friends from five churches in our Circuit.



All of the grounds and the buildings were used to showcase the many activities that take place on the premises such as quilting, knitting, lace making, U3A, photography and a variety of art groups. There was a book stall to remind people that next Spring the Great Book Sale will be returning and of course you can't have a fete without a raffle!

Singers, dancers and a ukulele band performed on our 'outdoor stage' .... usually known as the church covered entrance! Shirley Methodist is proud to support a variety of charities; Christian Aid, The Leprosy Mission and TWAM (Tools with a Mission) and Hall Grange Amenities. They were invited to run stalls. Other community charities joined the fun. It was a truly special day.

## BEING SHEEPISH



I'm the lost sheep

*You're not lost, you're with me*

Where are we then?

*I've no idea*

# Summer Weather Word Merge!



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Do not stand at my grave and weep;  
I am not there. I do not sleep.  
I am a thousand winds that blow.  
I am the diamond glints on snow.  
I am the sunlight on ripened grain.  
I am the gentle autumn rain.  
When you awaken in the morning's rush  
I am the swift uplifting rush  
Of quiet birds in circled flight.  
I am the soft stars that shine at night.  
Do not stand at my grave and cry;  
I am not there. I did not die.

*Anon - found in the wallet of a British soldier, Stephen  
Cummings, killed in Northern Ireland.  
(These arresting lines are not aligned to any particular  
faith but you might agree that they have the ability to  
lift up our individual souls.)*

*Rex*

## **CATHERINE PORTER'S BUSY LIFE**

Dear Friends,

Greetings from a slightly cloudy Sendai! The Cherry blossoms have finished, the Azaleas are beginning to flower and the rainy season now beckons. I was blessed to have a few days away last week at Nasu Kogen House of Rest, three hours away from here. It is run by a Japanese Pastor and his wife, Yoko, a couple in their 70s.

My Easter concerts went well. There were two lovely surprises for me. The first was that Mr Maruyama came to our church service after attending the concert. He said that he came because he wanted to buy a CD that I had run out of the day of the concert. But, as I had said that I could send him the CD, I can't help but think that he came to church

because he wanted to come to church. He shared that the Bible passage had an impact on him. The second surprise was that Miss Yamagi, an elderly lady probably approaching her 80s, came to the Easter service. A flyer had been put through her door. Easter Day was her birthday and she wanted to do something special for her birthday, so she attended our church. Since then, she has kept coming and says that she wants to continue to do so! Last Sunday, she told me, 'coming here is the thing I look forward to each week'! Please could you pray for Mr Maruyama and Miss Yamagi, that God would continue to draw them to Himself?

At the beginning of May, we had our WEC Japan annual conference. This time, it was hybrid but I decided to attend and was able to meet with some fellow WEC missionaries for the first time in three year. It was a beautiful group of people who gathered. For me, the challenge this time was to discern whether or not I should take on leadership responsibilities within our branch. However, I decided I must turn down the nomination. If I was on a concert tour, I wouldn't be able to give the branch committee the time it deserved.

I had the chance recently to preach and it seems that I am only the third woman to preach at this church in the 40-something years it has been standing. I am grateful for the opportunity, and would appreciate your prayers that I can communicate well how great our God is. I have also joined the Elder's team. Thank you so much for your prayers and support - they are so appreciated! It would be lovely to hear your news if you have time.

Love and blessings,  
Catherine

<b>Weekly Services and Meetings at Christ Church</b>			
09.15	Holy Communion (2 <sup>nd</sup> Sun)		
09.00	Time for quiet prayer (Zoom)		
10.10	Songs for Worship (2 <sup>nd</sup> Sun)		
10.30	Morning Service (Parade 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sun)		
10.30	Holy Communion (4 <sup>th</sup> Sun)		
10.30	Junior Church / Youth Fellowship		
10.30	Crèche		
17.00	Cafe Worship (3 <sup>rd</sup> Sun)		
<b>Monday</b>			
09.30	0-5 Stay & Play		
18.00	Monday Club (monthly, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday)		
<b>Tuesday</b>			
19.00	Rangers (fortnightly)		
<b>Thursday</b>			
09.30	0-5 Stay & Play		
18.30	Guides and Brownies Combined Unit		
<b>Minister</b>		Revd Soon Cheol Choi	8654 5481
<b>Church Stewards</b>			
Sunday morning services only →			
Sunday morning services only →			
<b>Room Bookings</b>			