

# CONNEXION



*Sunday 14 April*

**The magazine of  
Christ Church Methodist, Addiscombe  
APRIL 2024**

**Minister: Revd Richard Lowson - 07311 390636  
114 Lower Addiscombe Road, Croydon CRO 6AD**

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

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

## **APRIL WORSHIP**

<b>Sunday</b> <b>10.30am</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Morning Worship</b> in Church and on Zoom – led by Mr Reindolf Asamoah
<b>Sunday</b> <b>10.30am</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>CHURCH ANNIVERSARY</b> <b>All Age Worship</b> in Church and on Zoom - Led by Revd Nigel Cowgill, Chair of London District followed by an anniversary bring & share lunch
<b>Sunday</b> <b>10.30am</b>  <b>5.00pm</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>Morning Worship</b> in Church and on Zoom – led by the Stewards and members of the congregation <b>Café Worship</b>
<b>Sunday</b> <b>10.30am</b>  <b>4-5pm</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b> in Church and on Zoom followed by our <b>General Church Meeting</b> – led by Revd Richard Lowson <b>Messy Church</b>

## **APRIL DIARY**

<b>Thursday</b> <b>7 for 7.15</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Film night at Shirley MC</b>
<b>Saturday</b> <b>12-5pm</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Relax and Create handicrafts</b>
<b>Saturday</b> <b>10.30-12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>Coffee morning and Foodbank collection</b>
<b>Tuesday</b> <b>9.30am</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>Breadmaking at Shirley MC</b>
<b>Friday</b> <b>10.30-12</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>Bible Study</b>

## **MAY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

<b>Thursday</b> <b>7 for 7.15</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Film night at Shirley MC</b>
<b>Saturday</b> <b>12-5pm</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Relax and Create handicrafts</b>
<b>Saturday</b> <b>10.30-12</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>Coffee morning and Foodbank collection</b>
<b>Tuesday</b> <b>9.30am</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>Breadmaking at Shirley MC</b>

**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.

Also on Sunday mornings, **Early prayers** are offered weekly at 9.00am for half an hour on Zoom. If you would like to join in, please see the link in the email which is sent with the Keeping in Touch sheet.

**Cafe Worship** – The next meeting will be on **Sunday 21 April 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.

## CONTENTS

Church Family News .....	4
Action for Children at Christ Church .....	5
Bunny, Eggs and Life Giver .....	6
Stay and Play .....	7
Café Worship /Bible Study .....	8
Messy Church.....	9
Spotlight on poverty and the latest budget .....	10
Church Action on Poverty .....	12
Easter .....	14
Christian Aid London Freedom Walk .....	15
Down on the Farm .....	16
Coffee morning & Foodbank / Relax & Create .....	17
Love Clean Streets .....	18
Smile .....	19
Spotlight on Safer Internet Day .....	20
April .....	21
British Summer Time .....	22
Update from Catherine Porter in Japan .....	25

# CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Janet Houghton, a very long-standing member of our congregation until she moved to Cambridgeshire to be near her family, passed away on 15 March. A thanksgiving service for her life will be held on Monday 15 April at Histon Methodist Church at 12.00 noon.

The funeral of Olive Nedd whose death has previously been reported will be on Wednesday 10 April at 1.30pm at Christ Church followed by a family committal.

We remember Olive and Janet's families in our prayers as they prepare for the funerals.

We have also heard the sad news that Pat Pritchard (Revd John Pritchard's wife) passed away on 2 March. Many will remember John and Pat's ministry in the Croydon Circuit and we hold John in our prayers.

Several friends have celebrated birthdays in the last few weeks, including Big 'O' birthdays, one of which was Elaine Payne who turned 80. These birthdays have been included in the Keeping in Touch sheet and we congratulate all who are now starting a new decade of their lives.

We remember all those known to us who are unwell or going through difficult times. May the knowledge of God's love for them all comfort them.

*Please phone/send any family news to Fiona Assaly: [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.*

**Welcome to the April 2024 edition.** We hope you enjoy reading the magazine. Suggestions to Fiona please at [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 MAY 2024 EDITION** by **Sunday 21 April** 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*

## Action for Children at Christ Church



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

The charity gets some money from government, local authorities and businesses but this kind of funding isn't guaranteed long-term therefore it relies on individual donations to provide much of the support it gives to children and young people. Any size of donation makes a difference as it helps run vital community services that local authorities can't fund.

Christ Church supports this charity through offerings given at our Christmas services. Some people also have Action for Children collection boxes at home which are normally collected each year and the money sent off to the charity. However many people now do not use cash regularly and hence do not have the loose change to put into their collection box. The charity obviously still needs our donations so there are several options.

If you have a box or would like to donate can you please do one of the following by the **end of May**:

a) Either give me your collection box as normal with either cash or a cheque (*payable to Action for Children*) in it. Please contact me if you would like me to collect your box if that's easier.

b) Or if you prefer to make a bank transfer (whether you are a box holder or would like to make a one-off donation) please contact me for my bank details.

Many thanks

Mary Salter



## Bunny, Eggs and Life Giver

Easter will still be with us,  
Though the trams may probably not,  
There's plenty of buses to Croydon,  
And ample coming back.

Nigel Cowgill will be preaching,  
At our Anniversary do,  
There'll be food and drink to savour,  
Now form an orderly queue.

So put the 14<sup>th</sup> in your book,  
And 28<sup>th</sup> as well,  
For the General Church meeting,  
Where your thoughts will serve us well.

We hope you did enjoy your choccy eggs,  
And Easter Eggstravaganza too,  
But open your hearts to Jesus,  
Who lived and died for you.

*Bob Horne*



**Blue Easter Bunny**



## **Stay & Play**

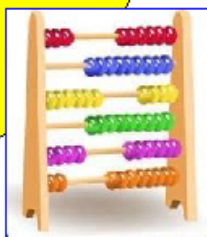
**Christ Church Methodist Church**

114 Lower Addiscombe Road Croydon CR0 6AD

**Monday 9:30am to  
11:30am**

**£2 per family group  
with light refreshments**

**Term time only**



**For 0-5 year olds with their carers**

**enquiries : 07555413282**

**email : [enquiries@christchurchmeth.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@christchurchmeth.org.uk)**

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



## **CAFÉ WORSHIP**

*If you haven't been before, come along and give it a try*

Our next meeting will be on

**SUNDAY 21 April 2024 at 5pm**

Hybrid Cafe Worship

Join us on Zoom or at church

Everyone can be part of it

*We welcome people of all ages  
for an informal hour of worship and fellowship  
Bring & Share refreshments*

*Wendy Thompson*

### **ENCOUNTERING GOD IN THE BIBLE - BIBLE STUDY**

The next session will be on Friday 19 April from 10.30am-12 noon in the Church Lounge led by Revd Pam Clews. All are very welcome to a fascinating and thoughtful morning's discussion.



# Messy<sup>®</sup> Church



*For all ages together*

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April**  
4 – 5 p.m.



**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May**  
(To be confirmed)

Snacks and drinks provided

All welcome



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



For more info  
email: [enquiries@christchurchmeth.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@christchurchmeth.org.uk)  
Or phone 020 8656 4610



## **on Poverty and the latest budget**

**Leaders from across the Methodist Church have responded to the Chancellor's announcements made in the budget on 6 March. They have highlighted the lack of acknowledgement of people struggling against poverty in our communities, and the lack of difference the announcements will make to the communities they live and work alongside.**

**Paul Morrison, Policy Advisor for the Joint Public Issues Team, said:**

"A 2p cut in National Insurance offers the bottom fifth of households around £350m a year, but the top fifth of households will receive over 10 times more – more than £4Bn. This cut represents a long-term choice to target resources on those with the most rather than those with the least.

"In a country where 14.4 million people are held back by poverty and where one million children are growing up experiencing destitution – a form of very deep poverty we had all but eradicated in the UK – the choice to focus money on the best-off households is the wrong one.

"Today, five out of every six households receiving Universal Credit (the main benefit designed to support low-income families), are going without essentials. The six-month extension of the Household Support Fund, which provides funds to councils to help families struggling to meet their basic needs, is welcome, but it is a temporary measure that will barely touch the sides of the problem. A decent welfare system would at the very least ensure that everyone is able to afford the essentials.

"The Churches are supporting the Let's End Poverty movement, because with political willingness we can turn the tide on rising poverty in the UK. The movement is bringing together voices from across society to demand that our political leaders take poverty seriously and set out their long-term plans to address it as an election approaches. The reality of deepening poverty did not feature in either the Chancellor's budget speech or the Leader of the Opposition's response – next time, it must be central."

**Leaders from across the Methodist Church who work alongside low-income communities also offered their initial reflections on the budget announcements.**

**Revd Neil Johnson, Pioneer minister at Street Banquet in Birmingham said:**

“I work alongside the street community, particularly those in Birmingham City Centre – those living with the daily injustice of homelessness. This includes rough sleepers, hostels and houses of multiple occupancy (HMO) residents and tenants in insecure and inadequate housing. These are people, many of whom are receiving benefits, but also those who are working in poorly paid work and receiving very low incomes. This budget has done those people no favour at all. In fact, quite the opposite. Jeremy Hunt said that his budget was a budget for long-term growth. And yet we’re living in a society where many, many people are in immediate need.

“The future was already bleak for the street community but now, after this budget, it seems even bleaker. The budget makes the richer, better off while poverty increases. Cuts to public services will have a devastating impact on the poorest and most marginalized of communities. This budget was not meant for the members of the street community, people who already feel disenfranchised because they have been disowned by society.

“So what will make a difference? A truly just tax system, solving the housing crisis and long-term investment in public services.”

**Winnie Baffoe, Director of Engagement and Influence, South London Mission said:**

“The budget refers to fiscal drag, a recovery of finances, but not to people’s lives. The negative accumulative effects of inadequate housing, the lack of investment in mental health and reduced funding in education is not spoken openly about. We cannot recoup the loss of time and the impact that has had on people’s lives. What we need is a budget that tells the story of the social contracts of housing, education, and health. Children and young people are heirs of the past 10 years, the suffering children of the present and makers of the future. What does this budget tell us that they have to build on?”

**Deacon Jenny Jones, based at Methodist Central Hall, Manchester, said:**

“This budget makes no additional provision for refugees and asylum seekers, and actually blames them for the problems the countries are having. In recent months, the Government has improved the speed with which applications are processed for those who are looking for the right to remain. And that’s good news in some ways. But I don’t think we’ve really talked about how, once leave to remain is granted, their benefits, anything they have like their accommodation, all stops within a few days. I think this budget should have been addressing that, because these people are becoming homeless, their mental health is being destroyed. These people become dependent on food banks, clothing banks, warm spaces, the places that churches provide. But this government and this budget have forgotten that these are real people with real emotions. The people that I have met are wonderful people who

would love to contribute to this country. But they're being held back by the systems. And this government doesn't seem to care."

**Helen Pearce, Social Justice Enabler, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Methodist District, said:**

"For many in Cornwall, the budget gave no good news, especially those who struggle to find accommodation to live in. For the 28,000 people waiting on the home choice list there has been no announcements of a plan to enable people to be able to access long term homes and accommodation for so many families and children. A long-term plan is required. A home is something that everyone needs and has a right to."

**The Methodist Church is part of the Let's End Poverty movement, calling on political leaders to make tackling poverty a core priority ahead of the next General Election.**

In response to the budget, individuals and groups are invited to write to their MP to ask them how they will raise poverty up the political agenda. You can use the digital action to find your MP and send them a personalised email on the Let's End Poverty website: <https://letsendpoverty.co.uk/action/>.

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What stories, myths and assumptions are commonly held about people experiencing poverty? And what is the truth behind them?

Today, we're sharing another story that is part of our new guest series. They're told by Stef Benstead, a social justice campaigner, Manchester Poverty Truth Commissioner, and an expert on the mistreatment of disabled people.

We've had positive feedback from the blog we published last week about [Emma's Road to Church](#). Today, we have a new story for you. We hope you'll read the stories, reflect on them, and share them more widely.

### **Stories that challenge and change**

These are intentionally contrary stories that push back against negative ideas, and force us all to re-examine negative stigmas and stereotypes. They are longer than our usual blogs, and we encourage you to read them when you have the time to do so in full.

Today's story is about **Alan and Ben**. Here's what Stef says about their story:

*"The problem is that Ben and Alan are the same people. One person is who you see from the outside: the 'scrounger'. The other is the person on the inside, trying to survive in horrendously challenging circumstances. One is the superficial person who the government insists needs to be punished. The other is the real person, helped by support but held down by sanction."*

[Read Alan & Ben's full story here](#)

Liam Purcell, Church Action on Poverty

*PS If you'd like to read more of Stef's writing, she's contributed a section to 'Like a Root out of Dry Ground', a new resource for Holy Week from the Iona Community.*

*Find out more and order it here:*

[Like a Root out of Dry Ground](#)

# Easter

Alexei rests in Christian strength  
Courage and devotion,  
His wife now carries on  
His cross that Putin cannot counter.

A Kremlin prodding fear  
Dismissed but still returning  
In the night and  
Many nights returning.

Putin's pillow may be soft  
But sleep will  
Not come easy  
No escape his turning, turning.

Till one day Navalny  
Fuelled with Easter Christ  
Will gather strength to  
Nightmare size that

Sleeping pills won't counter –  
Alexei's prodding name  
Alive beside beyond all Easters,  
A lasting prodding nightmare name.

*Rex*

## **CHRISTIAN AID WEEK LONDON FREEDOM WALK – SATURDAY 11 MAY**

A group of walkers at Shirley are planning to do the Christian Aid London Freedom Walk on Saturday 11 May and we'd like to invite walkers from Christ Church and Addington to join us. There are some details below.

The walk begins at All Hallows by the Tower, with a short service at 12.30-1.00pm. This year's route takes in Southwark Cathedral, south of the river. It ends at St Paul's, and there are plenty of landmarks on the route.

If you would like to join 2024 walk, Robin and Hilda Burnham, from Shirley Methodist, have kindly offered to sign up Methodist walkers from Addington and Christ Church to join Shirley's group. Email them at [rebandhpcb@outlook.com](mailto:rebandhpcb@outlook.com) They need each person's name, phone number and email address to register them.

The (rather long) link below is very informative. It shows the route, the churches and other buildings to be visited and the distance between each stage.

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1jPPufMa6UepjX-jW3YUldKggcTORE0s&ll=51.51247994977971%2C-0.09094450000000087&z=15>

It's good exercise, good fun and for a very good cause!

## *Down on the Farm*

*I had been made redundant in 1982 with a week's holiday due – we decided to try a week on a farm on Exmoor.*



We had often Youth Hostelled in the area so decided on a walking week. At that time, there was a bus from Tiverton every two hours – now one a day at most. It was about a mile from the farm. John and Hazel made us very welcome and we ate the same as the family. Good generous home cooking. We had the run of the farm one day, even trying our hand at milking a cow – we felt sorry for the cow! We were no experts.

One day, John was going to Witheridge to view some sheep. He offered to take us. Carl decided to stay more local but I decided on the 15 mile walk. I made good progress over Tarr Steps and arrived back in time for dinner. Carl was worried that I was lost. Several Met Police were also staying on the farm and planning a search when I walked in!

We stayed many times over the next 15-20 years. One Easter we joined a Ride of Witness. We had our bikes and joined about four miles from the village, ending up at the village hall opposite the farm. There were cyclists, horse riders, youngsters on roller skates and a few cars. There was a short service including a testimony from a horse rider who after a fall was told she would never walk again. After the service, there were warm hot cross buns and juice provided by Hazel.

We continued visiting once or twice a year over the 20 years – the two sons married and had six children between them. They played



outdoors most of the time, copying what their parents did. We

learned a lot about the local wildlife, often taking up to a couple of hours' walk to the top of the hill (about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile) looking at the flowers and birds.

We kept in touch for many years. The boys each have their own farms, having bought fields next to the original farm, mostly sheep but with some cattle and a few crops. Most of the family are involved with either farming or similar careers, although one daughter is nursing.

Many happy memories, even seeing the birth of lambs including helping hand feed those which could not be fed by their mothers.

*Sheila Szzvanowski*

## **COFFEE MORNING AND FOODBANK COLLECTION**

On Saturday 13 April from 10.30am-12 noon, please come and join or meet new friends for a drink and a chat and maybe make a donation to the Salvation Army Food Bank. Everyone is very welcome.



## **Relax and Create**

**will meet on Saturday 6 April  
from 12.00-5.00pm**

in the Fellowship Hall for you to practise and enjoy your handicrafts, receive a warm welcome – and a cuppa

*(Donation - £5 per session)*

# love clean streets

I wonder if litter and fly-typing on the streets annoy you as much as they do me?

Well, there is something we can do about it with an app called '**Love clean streets**'. All you have to do is to download the app, then follow the instructions for reporting the discarded items to Croydon Council; it doesn't take very long to complete the report. I've been so impressed that the rubbish is cleared very promptly and only last week it was disposed of within 30 minutes from when I sent the report!

If litter and piles of rubbish are allowed to accumulate then not only are they unsightly and health hazards but also more rubbish is dumped and so the problem increases.

Join me in my latest hobby, download the app and help improve our local urban environment!

Mary Salter





## SMILE

A smile is cheer from you to me  
The cost is nothing – it's given for free.  
It consoles the weary and makes them glad  
And can make someone happy when they are sad.  
Unlike blessings in which we pray  
It's the only thing you keep when you give it away.

*Author unknown*



## **on Safer Internet Day**

Did you know that February 6<sup>th</sup> was Safer Internet Day? It reminded us of the need to stay safe when online. More apps, more accounts and more passwords create more opportunities for theft. Meanwhile, human nature stays the same. '123456' is still the most used password in the world!

### **How to better protect your Accounts**

Reusing passwords across all platforms makes them less safe. For example, if you use the same password for a T.V streaming service and your online bank service, a data breach at one could put the other at risk. This applies to passwords that are similar with small tweaks.

### **Make your Passwords impossible to guess**

When coming up with passwords, people tend to gravitate toward the same themes, favourite football teams, memorable dates, pet's names for example. Always try to avoid using passwords with any personal significance. Passwords that are longer than 12 characters with plenty of numbers, letters and special symbols are recommended.

### **Top tips**

- Change passwords periodically.
- Never repeat passwords.
- Use lowercase, capital letters and special characters.
- Never include personal information.
- And most importantly- NEVER SHARE YOUR PASSWORD

*written by Claire De Stefano, London District Safeguarding Officer*

## APRIL

We know it is the fourth month of the year, but that's only by the Gregorian calendar that we adhere to now. It was previously the fifth month in the earlier Julian calendar. April also only had 29 days, but a 30<sup>th</sup> day was added when Julius Caesar established the Julian calendar.

No one is sure how the month ended up with its name, but we do know the Romans named it "Aprillis". The word "April" comes from the verb "aperire," which means "to open." It's commonly believed that the word refers to the season of trees and flowers beginning to "open" or bloom.

Those who were born in April have a diamond as their birthstone, which represents innocence. Their birth flower is either a Daisy or a Sweet Pea.

There are quite a few notable historical people born in April, such as Leonardo da Vinci, Shakespeare, and Queen Elizabeth II.

On April 14, 1912, the famous Titanic ship hit an iceberg and sank on her first and only voyage.

One of the most well-known dates of the month is April Fools' Day on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month. No one is sure where this originated from, but some believe it to be inspired by Geoffrey Chaucer's story in "Canterbury Tales" called "Nun's Priest's Tale."

On April 11, 1970, Apollo 13 was launched and ran into difficulties about two days later. It was then that the famous line "Houston, we've had a problem here" was said, and is today usually misquoted.

After a 1,500-year break, the first Olympics of the modern era took place on April 6, 1896, in Athens.

The explosion of the Chernobyl nuclear plant in Ukraine occurred on April 26, 1986, which forced everyone within a 300-mile radius to be evacuated.

The smaller animals that hibernate for the winter in the Northern Hemisphere usually start coming out of their burrows in April. April is also the month that the birds migrate north and settle down for the summer to mate.

## British Summer Time

'Spring forward, fall back'. In spring, the clocks go forward one hour and British Summer Time begins. In autumn (fall), the clocks go back as British Summer Time comes to an end and the UK reverts back to Greenwich Mean Time (GMT).

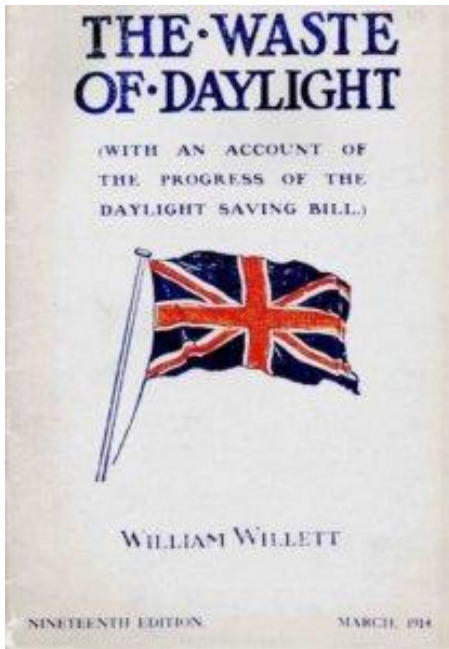
But when did this practice begin, and why?

British Summer Time, also known as Daylight Saving Time, was the brainchild of a builder from Kent called William Willett. The story goes that one day on his way back from riding his horse in Petts Wood near his home in the early 1900s, he noticed many of the blinds and curtains in the neighbouring houses were still drawn, even though it was light. This led him to consider the idea of adapting the time to better fit daylight hours. Back then the clocks were set all year round to Greenwich Mean Time (GMT), meaning it was light by 3am and dark around 9pm in the summer.



Although he was not the first person to advocate this, he was perhaps the most driven, using his own resources to finance a pamphlet outlining his idea for adapting to daylight hours during the summer. His original proposal was for the clocks to be put forward by 80 minutes in total, in four steps of 20 minutes each Sunday at 2am during April and turned back in the same way in September. He argued that this would mean longer daylight hours for recreation, improving health and also saving the country money in lighting costs.

Through this leaflet "The Waste of Daylight" and his vigorous campaigning, in 1908 Willett got the support of the MP Robert Pearce who championed the idea, albeit unsuccessfully, in the House of Commons.



*The last edition of the pamphlet, 'A Waste of Daylight', 1914*

The idea resurfaced during World War One when the need to conserve coal made the suggestion of daylight saving more pertinent. Germany had already introduced a similar scheme when the Summer Time Act was finally passed in the UK on 17th May 1916. The clocks went forward one hour on the following Sunday, 21st May.

The time changes were widely advertised in the press. To return to GMT on 1st October 1916, people were advised to put their clocks forward by 11 hours rather than turning the hands back an hour, as in those days this would break the mechanism.

Sadly William Willett died of the flu in 1915 aged 58 and never lived to see his daylight saving ideas become law. Rather fittingly, in Petts Wood there is a memorial sundial, set permanently to Daylight Saving Time, to honour him.

During the Second World War, in 1941 Britain adopted British Double Summer Time, which saw clocks being put forward two hours ahead of GMT. The clocks were turned back to GMT at the end of summer 1945. However because of severe fuel shortages resulting from the harsh winter of 1946/47, the UK returned to British Double Summer Time during the summer of 1947.



Since its introduction, Daylight Saving Time has had both its advocates and critics. Advocates for the system claim the lighter summer mornings save energy, reduce traffic accidents and get people out and about and more active.

Critics however claim that if adopted all year round (known as British Standard Time), this would result in darker winter mornings which would be more dangerous for children going to school and for those in the north and Scotland, the sun would not rise until well into the morning leaving farmers working for several hours in the dark each morning in the winter. Some argue that because of this, England and Wales should have their own time zone and Scotland and Northern Ireland, another.

The Harold Wilson government adopted British Standard Time between 27th October 1968 and 31st October 1971 as a trial but after a free vote, the House of Commons chose to end the experiment.

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents has proposed adopting GMT+1 during the winter and GMT+2 in the summer, meaning the UK would be in the same time zone as France, mainland Spain and Germany. They argue this would reduce accidents as a result of lighter evenings and have called for the government to run another trial.

Several attempts to amend or repeal British Summer Time have been brought to the House of Commons in recent years, however currently the UK retains the system first advocated back in the Edwardian era by William Willett.



## An update from Catherine Porter in Japan

Dear friends,

How are you? It feels like a long time since I last wrote to you - please forgive me for that. I've been out of rhythm with the 3-week trip to the UK. I got back to Japan two weeks ago now. I want to thank so many of you who I was able to connect with during those weeks. Thank you!



I felt like a thousand kindnesses were being poured in my direction - airport pick-ups, gifts, hospitality, fellowship, encouragements... I felt incredibly blessed to have you all as part of my work and part of my life. Thank you! I was also blessed by the time I was given to share in church services, home group meetings and at other times, as well as the way I was prayed for. To those of you who I couldn't meet this time, I look forward to connecting when I am on home leave from the summer of 2025 for a longer period. My main purpose this time was to visit family. I was also able to visit my Nan, aged 94, in her care home. I felt blessed here too: at the end of last year, it looked like she might not be well enough to see me, let alone stay awake for a visit. But, she was up in her chair, recognised me, chatted happily for well over an hour, and she let me pray for her before I left.

In some ways, other than the UK trip, January and February have been fairly quiet. I've had time to meet up with individuals over coffee, have attended and helped with church meetings, as well as preaching and being involved in the children's work. I spent time with Erika in Bible study and praying about her future. She (hopefully) graduates from University this month with the qualifications to work as a nutritionist. (Passing her final exams is still a prayer point.) She had been doing job interviews since last Autumn and after many rejections, was beginning to feel hopeless. Many jobs in Japan don't give the option of having Sundays as a day off. Erika really wanted a job where she could continue to come to our church every week. She was questioning what to do, but I could see that she desired to put God first and prioritise the things she knows will help her in that. I really respect that. She

was baptised only 6 months ago, and she was persevering in a difficult situation. I shared the situation at WEC HQ while I was in the UK and the team there joined me in praying for her. A couple of days later, I received a message to say that she's been accepted to work at a local nursery school, with Sundays off and without the need to move out of the area! This was a real answer to prayer. Another encouragement for me recently was after preaching in January. I spoke from Ruth 1, focussing on Naomi's journey and how God was faithful to her throughout everything, even when all she could see was her pain. I heard afterwards that one lady in my church had been worried about her son's engagement. He is not Christian, and he has got engaged to a Hindu lady from India. This lady found encouragement in God's faithfulness to Naomi, particularly as she is praying for both her son and his fiance's salvation. I didn't know her situation when I preached, so I was amazed at how God can take what we give and use it in His plans. In one sense, both of these encouragements are small things. In another, they feel big, because they feel like real fruit - fruit that will last. It's the sense of God working in people's lives in ways that I would never expect. and of being allowed to see that and to be a part of it. I like that.

This quieter time is also a time of preparation. March is full. I will be away 9th-11th in order to play a concert for a church in Akita prefecture, one of the least evangelised areas of Japan. The church were hit by severe flooding last July and put a lot of effort into relief work, helping with mud-outs of the neighbours houses. Rather than do the concert in the church, they are hiring a local hall. I have been told that those who come have had zero exposure to the Gospel. **Please pray that I will share clearly and appropriately. Please pray that God will be moving in the hearts of those listening. Pray that people would turn towards God and respond to His call.** From 15th-17th, Misa and Shizu will stay at my house. Misa is a guitarist and a singer-songwriter. Shizu is a pianist as well as composing and singing. We will do a concert together on the Saturday, and then Shizu will do a special slot during the service at my church on the Sunday. **Please pray for our fellowship together. Pray that I will be able to encourage these ladies in their work for the Lord, and that our time together will be a blessing to them. Pray that God will use the concert for His glory, and that new people will attend our church on the Sunday.** Then on the 18th, I will travel down South to the Kansai area of Japan. I will work with another two churches before our WEC Japan Annual Conference starts. Having been part of the Member Care Team

this past year, I have been given an hour at conference to give member care teaching input. There is a concern that depression and burnout can be an issue for our missionaries, so I have been asked to speak on these topics and how to prevent them. This will be a new challenge for me. **Please pray for my preparation and delivery of this talk. Pray that I can share in a way that points people to God, helps them to feel valued and cared for as well as helping them practically, and helps them to stand firm in Jesus.**

One more thing in the pipeline is a Children's Outreach in the first week of April. I'm concerned that many of the people in my church are of the older generations. They are wonderful people and are doing fantastic work. But, it would be good if the church can also make contact with younger people. The outreach will take the form of an english class, including a Bible story time and as much Easter content as possible. **Please pray that we, as a church, will be able to reach out to younger people who don't know Jesus. Please pray that this english class would help that aim. Pray that people will be interested, and that the children who already attend church might want to invite their friends.**

Thank you always for your prayers,  
With love from Catherine.



## Weekly Services and Meetings at Christ Church

### Sundays

09.15	Holy Communion (2 <sup>nd</sup> Sun)	(no service currently)	
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)		
16.00	Messy Church (4 <sup>th</sup> Sun)		

### Thursdays

18.30	Guides and Brownies Combined Unit		
<b>Minister</b>		Revd Richard Lowson	07311 390636
<b>Church Stewards</b>			
<p>Sunday morning services only →</p> <p>Sunday morning services only →</p>			
<b>Room Bookings</b>			