

CONNEXION



A joyous Easter to you all

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

**Minister: Revd Richard Lowson - 07311 390636
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*



MARCH WORSHIP

Friday 2.30pm 7.00pm	1	Women's World Day of Prayer services at Hall Grange Our Lady of the Annunciation, Bingham Road
Sunday 10.30am	3	Morning Worship in Church and on Zoom – led by Mrs Ann Atkins
Sunday 10.30am	10	MOTHERING SUNDAY All Age Worship in Church and on Zoom - Led by Mrs Pauline Little
Sunday 10.30am 5.00pm	17	PASSION WEEK Morning Worship in Church and on Zoom – Revd Stephen Day Café Worship
Sunday 10.30am	24	PALM SUNDAY Morning Worship in Church and on Zoom – Led by Revd Richard Lowson
Thursday 8.00pm	28	MAUNDY THURSDAY United Service with Addington & Shirley MC at Christ Church led by Rev Richard Lowson
Friday 11am-3pm	29	GOOD FRIDAY Walk the Way of the Cross at The Wilderness
Saturday 3.30-5pm	30	EASTER SATURDAY Easter Eggstravaganza
Sunday 10.30am	31	EASTER SUNDAY Holy Communion in Church and on Zoom – Led by Revd Juliet Ushewokunze



MARCH DIARY

Friday 10.30am	1	Pastoral Committee
Saturday 12 noon	2	Thanksgiving service for the life of Cyril Beadle at Christ Church
Thursday 7 for 7.15	7	Film night at Shirley MC
Saturday 10.30-12 12-5pm	9	Coffee morning and Foodbank collection Relax and Create handicrafts
Wed 9.30am	20	Breadmaking at Shirley MC
Friday 10.30-12	22	Bible Study

APRIL DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 12-5pm	6	Relax and Create handicrafts
Sunday 10.30am	14	Church Anniversary – All age worship led by Revd Nigel Cowgill, Chair of the London District, followed by a Bring & Share lunch
Sunday	28	A shortened service of Holy Communion led by Revd Richard Lawson will be followed by our General Church Meeting

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 17 March 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.

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WORLD WOMEN'S DAY OF PRAYER

There will be a World Women's Day of Prayer service at Hall Grange on Friday 1st March at 2.30pm. The service has been produced by our sisters from the WDP Palestine and will be led by Revd Pam Clews. All are welcome.

If you are not available during the day, but would like to mark this event, there is an evening service being offered at **7pm at Our Lady of the Annunciation** – see poster on page 8.

Welcome to the March 2024 edition. We hope you enjoy reading the magazine. Suggestions to Fiona please on 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 APRIL 2024 EDITION by **Sunday 24 March** by email to cmmagazine@hotmail.com. Requests for email version to above address. Thanks as always to all contributors. *Editorial team*

From Richard

Finding the right Path

The wanderer returns – at last! It seems so long since I left Shirley to follow the French path through Spain to follow the pilgrim route to Santiago de Compostela.

I thought I knew the path I was going to travel but within days it became obvious I needed to walk a different path. I had travelled part of that way almost seven years ago and was looking forward to walking on familiar paths and discovering new paths along the way.



I wanted this trip to be about spontaneity, finding the right place to be. But with a real increase in the volume of pilgrims along with a post Covid surge, accommodation enroute was in short supply; many pilgrims having booked accommodation all the way to the destination.



I did enjoy the mountain scenery of the Pyrenees and the people and places as I walked through the Basque region. Pamplona was a pivotal point as I had to make important decisions about the paths that lay before me. I needed to find a different path and thought

if I dropped down to Porto, the path to Santiago may not be as crowded (How wrong I was). Where do I go from here? What's happening?

It was time to get off the beaten track, spontaneously I headed South of Porto and picked up a coastal walk following fishing villages and towns. It was a space for peace and quiet – away from the crowds. It was a time to get lost in the beauty of God's creation. To walk with saints at the festival in the fishing town of Espinho. But I was a long way from Santiago.

I decided I really needed to get home, to plan again the next stage of my journey. I had to discern which path I needed to follow. I flew back from Spain very despondent not really knowing what to do next, trying to live with disappointment. I shared that flight back with a small group from Yorkshire (of course) who were returning from Santiago having walked the Camino Ingles (English route) – a path less travelled. The seed had been sown and on my return I investigated the "Ingles or Celtic Camino" booked a flight and accommodation all the way and I was ready to go.

It was so good to get my walking shoes on again, to start in Ferrol and follow the yellow arrows to the resting place of St James. The scenery was breath-taking, the sunrises and sunsets that bookended the day were wonderful.



The people I shared the path with had great stories to share – but there was time to walk alone and reflect when needed. And to arrive as a pilgrim in Santiago, even though I have done it before, was something else; to be part of that pilgrim mass.



We follow a different path now, we are on our way to Jerusalem and to what lies ahead. For Jesus this was a very different path to the path he chose 3 years earlier. There were pivotal points on that journey, and the path he chose was anything but easy. But that is the path he chose.

I have discovered so much in these last few months, about myself and the God who journeys with me. About having to sometimes find a different path and accepting sometimes we don't know where a path will lead. I look forward to sharing pictures and stories from my sabbatical at a later stage. Thanks once again for letting me go.

- What path are we on?
- Is it the right path for us?
- Do we dare to take a different path?

Richard

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2024

FRIDAY 1 MARCH

A SERVICE FOR EVERYONE!

I beg you, bear with
one another in love



7.00 P.M.

**OUR LADY OF THE
ANNUNCIATION CHURCH**

**AT 147 BINGHAM
ROAD, ADDISCOMBE**

CROYDON CR0 7EN

**ALL WELCOME TO SHARE IN
PRAYER TODAY WITH THE REST
OF THE WORLD**

**(Service produced by
Christian Palestinian Women)**

INFORMED PRAYER, PRAYERFUL ACTION

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CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Cyril Beadle passed away on 24 January following a relatively short illness. Cyril was the brother of Elizabeth who pre-deceased him by just over a year and you may remember him coming to regular meetings and events at the church with Elizabeth. A thanksgiving service for his life will be held at Christ Church on Saturday 2 March at 12 noon.

Olive Nedd, a regular member of our congregation for many years, passed away on the night of Sunday 4 February. Olive was 97 years old and although very frail, was still coming to church occasionally until a few months ago. She will be greatly missed for her great faith and for her friendship.

We thank God for both their lives and remember their families in our prayers.

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. 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

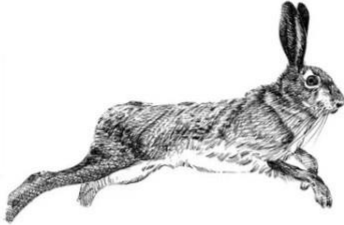
Paying Sunday offerings by card

Did you know that you can now pay Sunday offerings by card? Christ Church now has a giving terminal in the Fellowship Hall by the middle doors into the worship area. It's very easy and quick to use, accepts debit and card donations using contactless or Chip and Pin and donations can be made under Gift Aid.

Robin Haslam, Chair, Finance Committee

As the Hare

The lean March Hare,
Goes bounding along
His stomach empty,
But his legs are strong.



The birds in your eaves,
Will build their nest,
For a short while,
They will be your guest.

The Thrush will chirp,
And the Blackbird sing,
Spring is approaching,
And our Lord is King.

Lent is almost over,
And Easter is coming fast,
As with the birds within their nest,
New Life will be ours at last.

**By Bob Horne
25th Feb ' 24**

*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 17 March 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

'Too Close for Comfort' comedy show with Mark Ritchie

New Life Croydon are hosting Mark Ritchie and his evangelistic comedy show **Too Close for Comfort** on **Saturday 2 March from 7pm at New Life, Cairo New Road, CR0 1XP**. Mark is a gifted evangelist & communicator, originally from Scotland but now based in Nottingham, who uses comedy to help communicate the gospel message. The show is an ideal opportunity for Christians to invite non-Christians to, especially those who perhaps wouldn't go to a Sunday service but would go to a comedy show. No charge for the event and no need to sign up.

[Further info here.](#)

Mark Rossell, New Life



Full Moon

When the moon shines bright
Above the clouds
Free and travelling fast

We in our beds
Sometimes dream, waking
And wonder where we have been

Where wind and light
In our moon-changed world
Make bedtime silver magic

Where we can fly
Above silver clouds
And travel with the peaceful moon

Around the world above
The world and see with silvery sight
Through cloudy gaps below

Lighting silver seas
With silver boats on silver waves
And silver sailors sailing.

Rex

A Second Man's Courage to Easter

President Putin of Russia is suspected of the poisoning of Alexei Navalny, the leader of the only opposition to the president's re-election.

Navalny, then near death, was allowed to fly to Berlin where, in the Charity Hospital, the doctors were able to save his life.

Then, with singular courage, Navalny decided to return to Russia to carry on leading the opposition.

It was no surprise that he was then arrested and imprisoned. He was tracked through a series of court hearings, where in his last court hearing, his sentence was increased. In the middle of all that cruelty his sense of humour did not waver and we read that he even made the judge laugh in the process.

Sadly, in Siberia he has died and there was a delay in returning his body to his family, no doubt to prevent an immediate autopsy revealing his cause of death.

The police were ordered to prevent all public acts of mourning, with one news shot showing a woman flanked by two police officers having her head pushed down deep into the roadside snow. On 19 February, UK and US ambassadors, together with many of their European counterparts, also laid flowers to honour Navalny.

It is, of course, a coincidence that this has happened in Lent. We have also discovered that Father Grigory Mikhov-Vaitenko, a priest from St Petersburg, was arrested on his way to hold a memorial service for Navalny, who was a practising Christian. Alexei's near amazing decision to return to Russia points to a courage that reminds us of the courage and love of Jesus at this time of Lent.

Mikhail Shiskin, a Russian novelist, has written in *The Guardian*, 19/2/24, "If Alexei Navalny had known what was to come after his arrest, that the opposition would lose hands down, that the regime would instigate a shameful war against Ukraine – with a majority of the population supporting this ignominy – would he have taken the same decision, returned to Russia to be imprisoned and allowed himself to be murdered? I do not know the answer, but I think he would. There have always been, are now and ever will be, people who hold some things dearer than life itself. He has given support to all of us. By existing, by refusing to give in, by making that supreme sacrifice, he has given us all hope. We are now his hope."

A present-day Easter story.

Christ Church Methodist

114 Lower Addiscombe Road CR0 6AD

**Fun afternoon of
craft, games,
Easter trail,
chocolate & snacks**



for all ages!

Easter Eggstravaganza

Saturday 30th March

3.30 — 5 p.m.



Children must have an adult with them

Suggested donation £1 per child

Enquiries : enquiries@christchurchmeth.org.uk

Isle of Wight Memories

Receiving a copy of a memorial service for a friend on the Isle of Wight brought back memories of a holiday in 1957 on the Island. The reception was in Wooton on the Island.



A good school friend, Helen, myself and three boys from the boys' grammar school had booked for a week's holiday at Little Canada holiday camp – still being used as a youth holiday centre. Three days before the holiday, Marion and another ex-pupil of our class came round for the evening. She, Ann and Pauline also from our year had booked to go to Little Canada at the same time – great.

Helen and I had booked tickets from London to the Island. There were lines all over the Island pre-Beeching cuts of the 1960s. Our booked seats were not available so we were put in 1st class. My dad was a butcher and Helen's a postman so neither had travelled 1st class before – pure luxury. The three boys took their Vespa scooters.

We all met up at the holiday camp, found our chalets and planned to enjoy our week. There was lots on offer – competitions, shows and entertainments. I entered table tennis, Helen the beauty contest. I hired a bike one afternoon while Helen sat pillion on Roger's Vespa. The evenings were spent at the various shows and other entertainments on offer. For all of us, it was our first holiday without our parents. The week flew by.

Helen was married to Roger for about 20 years. Brian and Anne also married. Helen now lives in Devon – we are still good friends.

When I got home, I realised I had overspent so till the end of the month, cycled to work – I sometimes did that – as my father always told me never to borrow money. Happy memories.

Sheila Szzvanowski

COFFEE MORNING AND FOODBANK COLLECTION

On Saturday 9 March 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 9 March
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)

ENCOUNTERING GOD IN THE BIBLE - BIBLE STUDY

The next session will be on Friday 22 March 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.





EASTER

Answer the clues and enter the answers below, then rearrange the twelve first letters to make a two word topical phrase.

- 1 Have these boiled, scrambled or made of chocolate! _ _ _ _
 - 2 Topsy turvy _ _ _ _ _ down
 - 3 Something bright does this _ _ _ _ _
 - 4 The angel rolled this away _ _ _ _ stone
 - 5 Wide _ _ _ _ _ Not tired
 - 6 A man who isn't important Mr _ _ _ _ _
 - 7 The fifth letter of the alphabet _
 - 8 The season that comes after winter _ _ _ _ _
 - 9 The opposite of light _ _ _ _ _
 - 10 The colour of a daffodil _ _ _ _ _
 - 11 To lift up _ _ _ _ _
 - 12 The last word of a prayer _ _ _ _ _
- _ _ _ _ _ / _ _ _ _ _

Addington, Christ Church and Shirley Methodist Churches

Invite YOU to

Walk the Way of the Cross ...



A reflective self led **Good Friday/Easter walk** around the **Wilderness** pausing at stages on the way. For All Ages.

Good Friday 29th March
Between 11am and 3pm

At the MHA Wilderness
17 Shirley Church Road,
Croydon CR9 5AL



Hymns and arias: Whitgift's key role in the Bible's Welsh translation

Elizabeth I's family background and Croydon's most famous Archbishop encouraged a work of scholarship that has preserved a vital piece of heritage.

The Whitgift stained glass window is in the Nicholas Chapel of Croydon Minster with the coat of arms showing the words, 'The Principality of Wales'. Archbishop Whitgift played a role in getting the Bible translated into Welsh.

The reconstructed tomb of John Whitgift in Croydon Minster with the stained glass window behind it.



The man who translated the Bible into Welsh was William Morgan who was born about 1545 at Ty Mawr, Wybrnant, on the Gwydir estate. It is probable that Morgan first came across John Whitgift during his time at Cambridge, as the latter was Master of Pembroke College in 1567 before becoming Lady Margaret Professor of Divinity later that same year.

Alongside his scholarly pursuits, Morgan was also a clergyman in the Church of England. While he was vicar of St Dogfan's in Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochant, not far from Oswestry, significant events happened in his life.

At the request of Queen Elizabeth, Parliament decided that the Bible should be translated into Welsh. Elizabeth's grandfather, Henry VII, was, of course, Welsh. Her father, Henry VIII, had got the Bible translated into English and Elizabeth, the last of the Tudors, wanted to make her mark on the newly reformed church, too.

Morgan was still at Cambridge when William Salesbury published the first Welsh translation of the New Testament. Morgan revised this work and then completed his own translation of the Old Testament while he was at Llanrhaeadr, ready to present to Her Majesty.

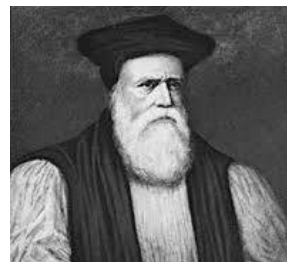
However, while he was busy on his translation Morgan fell foul of some powerful parishioners, who made official complaints about him to the church authorities, saying that he had neglected his duties because he was always working on his translation. Ultimately, that meant John Whitgift, who was by now the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Morgan had to travel to Lambeth Palace to have the complaint investigated by Whitgift. The Star Chamber recorded that Morgan was “on the whole, a conscientious parson much harassed by the malice of his enemies”. What was a stressful time for Morgan actually brought a new opportunity. The Archbishop was impressed with Morgan and encouraged both his translation work and his ecclesiastical career.

Whitgift arranged for Morgan to come to London for a whole year, lodging with the Dean of Westminster, in order for him to be close to the printer and assist him working in a different language. His Welsh Bible was ready to be printed in 1588, when a thousand copies were produced. So keen was he on the project, that Archbishop Whitgift paid the printing costs out of his own money. About 24 of these Whitgift-funded Bibles survive to this day, one being on display at Ty Mawr.

Morgan, though, expressed some misgivings about the newly printed Bibles. He thought they were too large, only really suitable for church services and not for reading at home. He also thought that at £2 a copy, they were too expensive – at today’s prices, each copy would cost £650. And, despite his best efforts, there were still some misprints.

Seven years later, Morgan was appointed by Whitgift to become the Bishop of Llandaff. His consecration took place in Croydon Parish Church on July 20, 1594. Morgan spent six years at Llandaff before his appointment as Bishop of Asaph, in North Wales, in 1601. He spent three years in that post.



He attended his final chapter meeting on September 6, 1604. He died on September 10 and was buried the next day in the Bishop's Palace. He left behind his priceless gift to Wales, his translation of the Bible.

Many scholars agreed that this was the most important book in the Welsh language. Morgan had a gift for languages and his translation of a rather stuffy and dry text was brought to life by his phrasing and choice of vocabulary. People in Wales could hear the Bible in their own tongue for the first time and it transformed many lives. It helped to establish the Welsh language at a time when it seemed to be fading into obscurity.

In his years as a bishop, Morgan was a strong supporter of Whitgift. He was probably at the Lambeth Conference of 1595, giving his support to the Archbishop as he battled for influence over the church with the Puritans.

"The Most Reverend Father in Christ, the Archbishop of Canterbury, that most excellent Patron of Literature, most keen champion of the truth and most prudent guardian of order and seemliness," is a quote attributed to Morgan about his boss.

The significance of getting the Bible translated into Welsh cannot be underestimated.

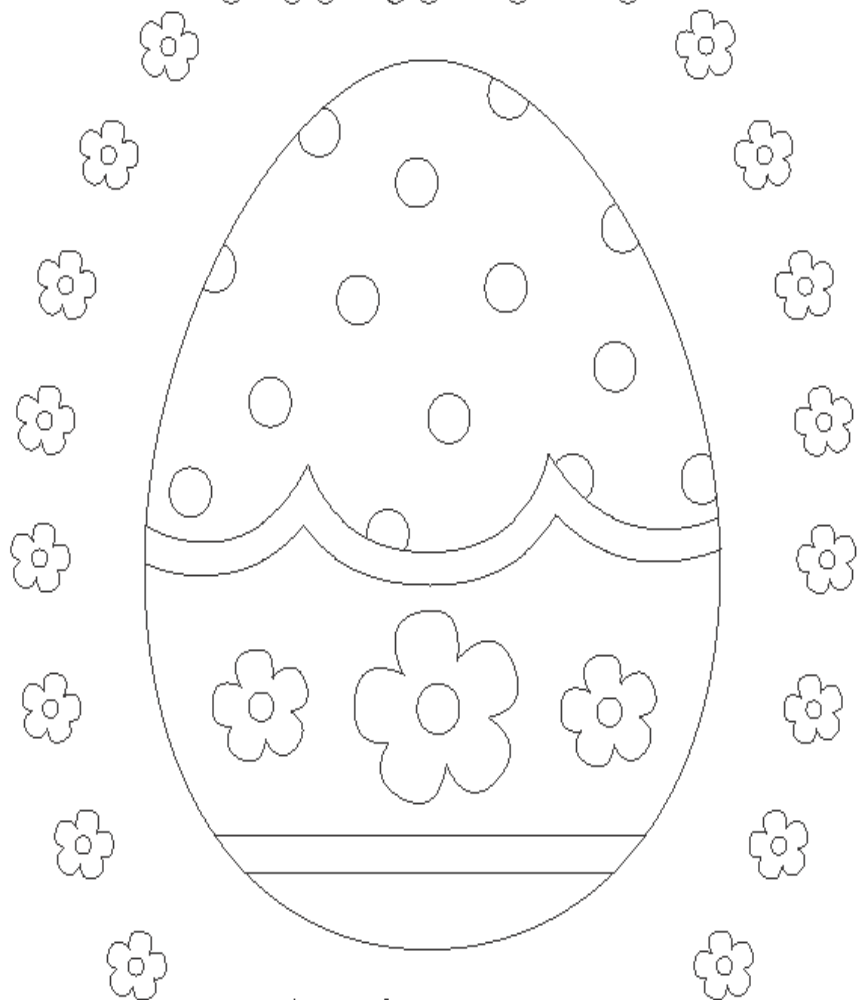
Thanks to Wendy Thompson for forwarding this article, bearing in mind that 1st March is St David's Day (the Patron Saint of Wales).

God saw that it was Good

[The Baptist Union Environment Network \(BUEN\)](#) has partnered with Fuelcast to produce a series of films about God's world. The films take people deeper in the wonder and mystery of the world. They weave stunning visual imagery with a narrative entwining science and faith. Through the videos, viewers are invited to encounter the wonder, playfulness and connections in creation, revealed through scientific discovery, and through which, God may be encountered.

[Find out more and watch the films](#)

HAPPY



EASTER





Methodist
relief and
development

The start of 2024 marks the start of a new All We Can campaign – ‘Charity Begins at Home’. For the next two years, we will be focussing on stories from our partners in Liberia and using the phrase ‘charity begins at home’ as a way of exploring different meanings of home, as well as where power lies in international development.



Jeremiah from All We Can’s partner in Liberia, SHIFSD. Their work enabling the communities they serve to thrive is a key focus for All We Can’s campaign.

(We’ll keep you updated. Editor)

Weekly Services and Meetings at Christ Church

Sundays

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

Thursdays

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