CONNEXION

The magazine of
Christ Church Methodist, Addiscombe
NOVEMBER 2026

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NOVEMBER WORSHIP		
Sunday **10.30am** **4.00pm**	**1**	**ALL SAINTS DAY** **Songs of Praise Morning Worship** in Church and on Zoom led by our Stewards and members of the Congregation **In Loving Memory service** at Christ Church
Sunday **10.30am**	**8**	**REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY** **All Age Worship i**n Church and on Zoom led by Deacon Al Henry
Sunday **10.30am**	**15**	**SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY** **Morning Worship** in Church and on Zoom led by Mrs Mary Salter
Sunday **10.30am** **5.00pm**	**22**	**Holy Communion** in Church and on Zoom led by Revd Patrick Kandeh (*retiring collection for Parkinson's UK*) **Café Worship** led by Paul Parkinson
Sunday **10.30am** **6.00pm**	**29**	**ADVENT SUNDAY** **Morning Worship i**n Church and on Zoom led by Deacon Al Henry **Circuit Advent Service** at Shirley Methodist Church

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.** 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 9.05am 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 will meet on Sunday 22 November at 5.00pm led by Paul Parkinson – in church or via Zoom. There is a new Café Worship specific zoom link which will be sent out with the Keeping in Touch sheet email.

Welcome to the November 2026 edition. We hope you enjoy reading the magazine. Suggestions to Fiona please on 020 8654 1296 / bingham144@hotmail.com. *Please note that opinions expressed in articles are personal to the authors and may not be endorsed by the editors.*

COPY DEADLINE FOR DECEMBER EDITION by SUNDAY 22 NOVEMBER by email to ccmamagazine@hotmail.com. Requests for email version to above address.
Thanks as always to all contributors. *Editorial team*

NOVEMBER DIARY		
Mondays 9.30-11.30	**2,9,16, 23,30**	**Stay & Play for 0-5 year olds and their carers**
Thursday 7.15pm	**5**	**Film Night at Shirley Methodist Church**
Saturday 12 noon-5pm	**7**	**Relax and Create Handicrafts**
Saturday 10.30am-noon	**14**	**Monthly Coffee Morning, with the opportunity to donate to the Salvation Army Foodbank**
Tuesday 9.30-12.30	**17**	**Breadmaking at Shirley Methodist Church**
Friday 10.30-12 noon	**20**	**Bible Study**
Saturday 10.00am	**28**	**Circuit Prayer Breakfast – venue tba**

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SOME DECEMBER DATES		
Saturday 10.30am-noon 12 noon-5pm	5	Monthly Coffee Morning, with the opportunity to donate to the Salvation Army Foodbank. Our church will be decorated then for Christmas as well. Please come if you can! Relax and Create Handicrafts
Monday 9.30-11.00am	7	Tiny Christmas
Friday 10.30-12 noon	11	Bible Study
Sunday 10.30am	6	Gift service – with gifts being donated to Reedham Children's Trust (NOT All Age)
Sunday 10.30am (time tba}	13	All Age Holy Communion led by Revd Patrick Kandeh Carols by Candlelight
Monday 9.30-11.30	14	Stay & Play Christmas Party
Sunday 10.30am	20	Morning Worship
Thursday 4.30pm	24	Christingle
Friday (time tba)	25	Christmas Day Morning Worship
Sunday (time tba)	27	Circuit United Service at South Norwood

RELAX AND CREATE

will meet on Saturday 7 November from 12 noon-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)*

Letter from our Minister, Revd Patrick Kandeh

Welcome to November—a new month, a fresh season, and another opportunity to experience God's grace, discover His purpose, and grow together in faith!

I am **Revd Patrick Gbanie Kandeh**, and I feel deeply honoured and excited to serve as one of your ministers in the Croydon Methodist Circuit. As we begin this new chapter together, I would love to share a little of my journey, my passion for ministry, and my hopes for the future we will build together.

At the heart of my ministry is a simple but powerful conviction: **every person matters to God, and everyone deserves a place to belong, a safe space to ask honest questions, and an opportunity to grow in faith.** I believe the Church is at its best when it welcomes people as they are, nurtures them in love, and inspires them to make a difference in the world.

My ministerial journey began with theological training at Wesley House Methodist Theological College in Cambridge. Over the years, I have had the privilege of serving in Beckenham, Wandle Valley, Battersea and Wandle Valley Circuit, spending fourteen years in these communities before moving to the South Bedfordshire Circuit, where I served as Superintendent Minister within the Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire Methodist District. Now, I look forward to this new chapter in Croydon with gratitude and anticipation.

Along the way, God has given me opportunities to serve the wider Church, including as Chair of the Belonging Together Minister Group, a supervisor, a member of the District and Connexional Candidates Committee, and a facilitator of the Cross-Cultural Supervision Course. These experiences have deepened my belief that ministry is not simply about leading worship or preaching sermons; it is about building authentic relationships, encouraging one another, serving our communities, and helping people discover the transforming love of God.

Beyond ministry, family is a precious part of my life. My wife, Martha, and our daughter, Matricia, share in this journey with me. I enjoy reading, socialising, spending time with family, travelling, playing music, driving, and watching football. And for those who enjoy a little friendly rivalry, I am a proud Chelsea Football Club supporter!

As we journey through November and prepare for Advent, my prayer is that our churches and Circuit will continue to grow as **communities of belonging, beacons of hope, and living expressions of God's love.** May our churches be places where faith is strengthened, friendships flourish, burdens are shared, and lives are transformed.

Whether you have been walking with God for many years, are rediscovering your faith, or are simply curious about what it means to believe, **you have a place at the table in the Croydon Methodist Circuit Churches.** You are welcome, you are valued, and your story matters.

I look forward to meeting you, hearing your stories, sharing in your hopes, and discovering together all that God has in store for our churches and communities.

A new season is here. A shared journey awaits. With God at the centre, we can become so much together!
May November bring renewed faith, fresh hope, deeper fellowship, and countless opportunities to share God's love.

A Reflection for November:
Walking in the Light of Gratitude and Remembrance

Dear Friends in Christ,

Welcome to November—a season of falling leaves, shorter days, and colder nights. As nature invites us to slow down and reflect, the Church invites us to remember with love, live with gratitude, and look ahead with hope.

Though the days may grow darker, the light of God's love continues to shine!

1. The Call to Remember

November invites us to honour the saints who have gone before us, remember those who sacrificed their lives for peace, and cherish loved ones whose memories remain in our hearts.
For some, remembrance brings gratitude; for others, it brings grief and longing. Yet, even in our sorrow, we find comfort in God's unfailing faithfulness. In John 15:13, Jesus reminds us of the greatest expression of love: laying down one's life for others.
May our remembrance inspire us to become peacemakers, to choose kindness over hostility, forgiveness over resentment, and love over hatred. **We honour the past best when we allow its lessons to shape a more compassionate and peaceful future.**

2. Cultivating a Heart of Gratitude

As the year draws towards its close, November offers us an opportunity to count our blessings and recognise God's grace in everyday life.
Gratitude may be found in a warm cup of tea, an encouraging word, the comfort of friendship, an answered prayer, or simply the strength to face another day. Life may not always unfold as we hope, but even in difficult seasons, we can find reasons to give thanks.
As 1 Thessalonians 5:18 encourages us, let us give thanks in all circumstances—not because every situation is easy, but because God remains faithful through them all.

A grateful heart sees blessings even in difficult seasons, and a thankful life becomes a testimony to God's goodness.
Let us also become lights in our communities, offering encouragement to the weary, compassion to the hurting, and friendship to those who feel forgotten.

3. Looking Ahead with Advent Hope

As November draws to a close, we approach Advent, a season of waiting, preparation, and expectation as we look toward Christ's coming.
Advent reminds us that darkness does not have the final word. John 1:5 declares, *"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."*
Whatever challenges we face, we can move forward with faith, knowing that God's promises remain sure. As we prepare our hearts for Christ, let us release our anxieties, seek reconciliation, encourage one another, and make room for God's love in our lives.
The days may grow darker, but our hope need not fade. In Christ, light always guides us, grace sustains us, and hope carries us forward.

A Prayer for November

Gracious and loving God, thank You for Your unfailing presence through every season of life. Teach us to remember with love, to live with gratitude, and to walk in faith. Comfort those who grieve, strengthen those who struggle, and make us instruments of Your peace. As we approach Advent, prepare our hearts to welcome Christ afresh. May we reflect Your light wherever darkness is found and share Your love wherever hope is needed. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Grace and peace to you all,
Patrick

In Loving Memory

MEMORIAL SERVICE

For those who have died

Sunday 1st November

4:00 PM

Christ Church
Methodist Church

Come and light a candle for a loved one

Contact Deacon Al for more information

deaconal@croydonmeth.org

0731 1390 627

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Alistair Kennard, a much loved and longstanding member of Christ Church, very sadly passed away on 22 September. Malcolm Holmes has penned his personal reflection on his long friendship with Alistair and Sue and their children:

When Alistair and Sue came to Christ Church from Upper Norwood, it started a period of time which involved many hours dedicated to the church and me personally. Al was very active in church life including Church Council and Property, in addition to helping Sue bring up Claire, Ali and Simon.
A lot of people will remember the pantos which Alistair would direct (also at other churches) and his involvement with the Methodist Association of Youth Clubs (generally known as MAYC), especially with the lighting at Westminster Central Hall (involving a lot of hard work and late nights). In later years, Al slowed down through illness and I must admit I found the situation hard to visit him as his Pastoral visitor. So God Bless you, Alistair and your lovely family.

We remember all those recently bereaved, dealing with illness or frailty or caring for a loved one. May they be comforted by the love of God.

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.*

BIBLE STUDY

Our next Bible study at Christ Church is on Friday 20 November from 10.30-12 noon in the Church Lounge. All are very welcome to a fascinating and thoughtful morning's discussion.

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

There is a new Café Worship specific zoom link which will be sent out with the Keeping in Touch sheet email

CAFÉ WORSHIP

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

The next meeting will be held on 22 November at 5.00pm led by Paul Parkinson.

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

✞ ✞ ✞

TWO POPULAR EVENTS AT SHIRLEY METHODIST CHURCH

FILM NIGHT

Thursday 5 November
7.15pm start in the Lounge

BREAD MAKING

Tuesday 17 November
9.30am-12.30pm in the Corner Room.
No experience needed. Beginners welcome.
Everything is provided.

Rydal

The chapel window from the Great War
hid the story of one family – Savage;
how those three brothers marked that name –
were they kind and gentle-mannered to
confound odd expectations?

Each day we sat in thick plain pews
half listening, bored imagination straining;
my morning eyes absorbing colours,
streaming through the leaded glass,
rested on the trio each modestly initialled
beside their striking family name.

The chapel moved, the window stayed
lighting now the dining hall and
I as adult from my mealtime
searched again for those three names.

Still in line the three untouched,
boys from school and now young men,
were their aims for sport or city
did one boost his age to fit …

Straight from school to trenches;
Ending with three telegrams or
Just one wrenching sentence.

Rex Feb 2006

My secondary school was and is a Methodist one
though now not a boarding one.

Rydal 2

I came from a country shielded from war to
a school uprooted, re-turned, re-stamping
routine for boys in gentle new ways,
a semi-monastic post-war protection.

No window in chapel for Second War dead,
just one year of peace then completed,
rationing and stories of courage and chance,
were seeded by those who returned.

The new Head was gentle, had one injured eye
and a constant distaste for coercion,
believing in trust and moral awakening,
he moved many of staff to impatience.

I opened and grew in this liberal routine,
expanding my personal space,
waking and closing each day in a pew
and two sermons to bracket each Sunday.

Rex Feb 2006

The Downsview Players present

CINDERELLA THE PANTOMIME

by Ben Crocker

at Downsview Methodist Church Hall

on

Saturday 21 November at 4pm (Relaxed Performance)
Thursday 26 November at 7.30pm
Friday 27 November at 7.30pm
Saturday 28 November at 4pm

Adults £12, children (12 and under) £6

The relaxed performance is for those with learning difficulties or autism and their carers/family

Tickets at

Cinderella the Pantomine

Do come and join us

Memories of Children's Parties

My first ever party was in May 1944 when I was 5 years old. Mum had invited Audrey next door and Pat and Roger whose home backed on to mine – all were 3½. I remember it was a warm sunny day. Mum had given me flowerpots so we could make mud pies (great at that age!). Food rationing was still in full swing so the food was simple – fish paste sandwiches, jelly and fairy cakes. We loved it.

The next was when I was 6 – the war was over! I was in hospital but Mum and our lodger were allowed in on the Monday evening with some red tulips and some red, white and blue ribbons. The next day, children from both children's wards joined together for a party. Until I was a bit older, I thought just for me but it was VE Day.

Most years after that I had a party at home playing Pass the Parcel with the gift right in the middle, Musical Chairs, Statues and other games. We had no music in our front room so Mum faced the wall and called out when we had to stop. As it was early summer we could go in the garden. Mum made a cake with candles for me to blow out.

Audrey's birthday is in October so we kept in the house. We had similar games but she had a gramophone. We listened to The Laughing Policeman which we found hilarious. Apart from local children, her friend Carol came with her mum. Audrey also had a piano which was easier for some games.

Mrs Darnell was an elderly lady and we passed her home on the way to school. She was always by the window to wave. She invited

about 10 children to a Christmas party. She made lots of cakes and really put herself out. She was a widow without children but we loved it. I remember we always sang Ten Green Bottles hanging on the wall and when one fell, one of us was out. Her lodger was always there and played the harmonium, probably for prayer meeting and other times. They both attended the large Methodist Central Hall in Tooting where I went to Sunday School.

One other birthday party I will never forget was held for my cousin Marion (who moved to Canada about 55 years ago. She had a very long immaculate garden in Carshalton and one year had a garden party with stalls like Roll the Penny and Hook a Duck as well as several others. We were all given a few pennies. It was great fun.

One other regular party was on 5th November. Twins Pat and Roger May were born on 6th November so always had a party with bonfire, guy and fireworks with quite a few of us invited. We had our tea and when Mr May got home from work he lit the bonfire to let off the fireworks and put the guy on the bonfire. There were lots of fireworks while the children had sparklers. While this was going on his wife brought out delicious homemade gingerbread.

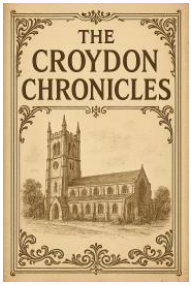
Our childhood parties were simple but great fun.

Sheila Szzvanowski

JOIN US FOR OUR
CHRISTMAS OPEN EVENT
SUNDAY DECEMBER 6TH 2026
FROM 11AM TO 4PM
Flower Pot People Panto Trail
Christmas Crafts and Activities
Craft Stall
Refreshments
Lucky Dip
Plant Stall
FREE ENTRY
(Though we do welcome donations)
MHA The Wilderness, 17 Shirley Church Rd, CR9 5AL (Behind MHA Hall Grange)
FOR MORE INFO CONTACT:
THEWILDERNESS@MHA.ORG.UK
mha
Live later life well

How Croydon got its first shopping centre 750 years ago

Early days: what has become Surrey Street Market, close to Croydon's church and the Archbishop's palace, might have looked something like this in its earliest days in 1276.



As the town centre's ancient market reaches its 750th anniversary,

DAVID MORGAN charts its growth from its beginnings as Butchers Row, aided by the patronage of commercially-minded Archbishops of Canterbury.

"Where there are two or three people gathered together in his name, God will be in their midst," so prayed the Archbishop from his chapel in his palace in Croydon.

"Where there are two or three people gathered together in the streets, there is a business opportunity to be had," the Archbishop's advisor whispered in his ear.

Is this the way Croydon's famous street market came into being?

In 1276 the Dominican monk, Robert Kilwardby, the first Archbishop of Canterbury from a mendicant background, obtained a royal charter for a market to be held in Croydon, not far from his bishop's palace. Fewer than 1,000 people lived in Croydon at that time, but in the countryside around the small town there were many farms growing crops and raising livestock.

And Kilwardby understood exactly what he owned. After his appointment in 1272 as Archbishop, Kilwardby conducted a survey – a stock-take, if you like; Domesday Books were all the rage in the 13th Century – of his demesne lands which provided him with food and income.

Archbishop Kilwardby

Of the three areas of Surrey which Archbishop Kilwardby held, Wimbledon paid him £42 per year, while Lambeth generated a mere £24. Croydon brought £80 into the Archbishop's treasury. By some reckonings, £80 in the reign of King Edward I might be the equivalent of £6.4million in the reign of King Charles III.

The Archbishop saw an opportunity to boost his income: a market for trading crops and livestock, and other goods, too. Edward I's royal charter officially established Croydon as a recognised market town. The charter authorised one weekly market, initially to be held every Friday (although this would be changed by other Archbishops in the 14th Century).

If you'd like to read the continuation of this article about Croydon's fascinating history, go to:

How Croydon got its first shopping centre

David Morgan has been chronicling Croydon's history for Inside Croydon for more than a decade. Morgan is a former Croydon headteacher, now the volunteer education officer at Croydon Minster.

Weekly Services and Meetings at Christ Church

Sundays

09.05	Time for quiet prayer (WhatsApp)		
10.10	Songs for Worship (2nd Sun)	Karen Taylor	07971 687567
10.30	Morning Service (All Age 2nd Sun)		
10.30	Holy Communion (4th Sun)		
10.30	Junior Church / Youth Fellowship		
17.00	Cafe Worship (3rd Sun)	Wendy Thompson	020 8656 4287

Thursdays

18.30	Guides and Brownies Combined Unit	guides.4thaddiscombe@hotmail.co.uk

Minister	Revd Patrick Kandeh	020 8654 5481
Deacon Minister	Deacon Al Henry	07311 390627
Church Stewards	Andrew Thynne	020 8656 5744
	Emma Guest	07809 443976
	Alex St John	07973 938095
	Karen Taylor	07971 687567
Room Bookings	lettings@christchurchmeth.org.uk	