

# CONNEXION



*Happy Easter*

The magazine of  
Christ Church Methodist, Addiscombe  
APRIL 2020

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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 AND DIARY

WORSHIP		APRIL
Sunday 10.30am	5	<b>PALM SUNDAY</b> Stephen Day's act of worship via YouTube
Sunday 10.30am	12	<b>EASTER SUNDAY</b> Stephen Day's act of worship via YouTube
Sunday 10.30am	19	Stephen Day's act of worship via YouTube
Sunday 10.30am 5.00pm	26	Stephen Day's act of worship via YouTube Cafe Worship via Facebook (TBC)

*Also on Sunday mornings, Wesley's Chapel has a live streaming at 11.00am and there is also a service on BBC1 at 10.45am.*

Sadly, due to Covid19 there will be no worship or meetings at Christ Church or in the Circuit for the foreseeable future. Nor will any of the ecumenical events normally held in Holy Week and at Easter take place. However, we can all celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord with joy in our hearts and spirits.

**Our Superintendent, Revd Stephen Day, is conducting a short act of worship on YouTube every Sunday morning at 10.30am** while our churches remain closed. You can receive notifications of a new video or message by clicking on the bell through this link. (if you miss this, the act of service remains online for later viewing):

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjsqXYbmrBE9GD4hNOUVEjg?feature=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fchannel%2FUCjsqXYbmrBE9GD4hNOUVEjg%3Ffeature%3Dem-lsb-owner>

**There is also a Keeping in Touch sheet** which when published will be sent to the Notices email distribution list. If you'd like to be sent this by email, please send a message to [ccmanotices@hotmail.com](mailto:ccmanotices@hotmail.com)

**Welcome to the April edition.** This is a very different issue taking account of Covid 19. We hope you enjoy reading the magazine. Any suggestions to Fiona please or email [ccmamagazine@hotmail.com](mailto:ccmamagazine@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** by **Sunday, 19 April** either by email. Requests for email version to above address. Thanks as always to all contributors.

*Editorial team*

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## **WE'LL BE BACK!!** **(with apologies to The Terminator)**



Our Sunday services will be back as soon as normality returns, as well as:

- ❖ Messy Church – first Sunday 4.00-5.00pm
- ❖ Cafe Worship – fourth Sunday 5.00-6.00pm

And of course our groups including:

- ❖ Stay and Play
- ❖ Monday Club
- ❖ Emmaus Bible Study Group
- ❖ Guides
- ❖ Community Friendship Club
- ❖ Choi's Midweek Reflection
- ❖ Brownies
- ❖ Relax and Create

## OUR MINISTER'S LETTER



Dear friends,

As we are supposed to prepare ourselves to celebrate the great victory of Easter, we are now facing an unprecedented crisis of coronavirus all over the world, struggling to live through turbulent times. We hear so often the words like self-isolation, social distance, or lockdown, which have never been that popular, I think. How can we get through this time of uncertainty and fear? Where is the end? Death tolls are rising every day.

To be honest, this pandemic challenges us and our faith, particularly when we are told to change our usual pattern of daily life. But, on the other hand, it seems to remind us of the challenges our forefathers faced in history. Although it is commonly described as 'unprecedented', I wonder whether we, human beings, had never had times of trouble, such as natural disasters, wars, or diseases. And, in many places of the Bible, we see the people of God had gone through the valley of death, crying and shouting out for life. But, what we have learned from them is they were constantly reminded that God was with them, in whatever situations they were. What is important to us is, therefore, how we can keep our relationship with God who created us and has given us everything he created in this planet and beyond, trusting in Him and His love, from which nothing can separate us.

And, if you are going through the challenge of isolation, self or forced, I just want you to remember that Jesus also had to be isolated for forty days and forty nights and endured temptations afterwards. I am sure we can find strength from him who knows the difficulties and pains of isolation.

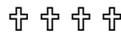
Times like this always let us down, often blind us not to see the light of hope, which Jesus shows us. But, if you look around, you may be surprised to see daffodils already blossomed and all new buds coming to life, having endured the time of winter-cold and darkness. As we know, Jesus endured all kinds of sufferings and even death, yet rose again from the grave. And, that is what we are to celebrate in Easter.

Lo, Jesus meets us  
risen from the tomb  
lovingly he greets us  
scatters fear and gloom:

I hope we can sing this hymn triumphantly on Easter Day, wherever you are, in self-isolation or keeping the social distance.

Happy Easter and every blessing to you all!

Rev. SC Choi.



## **MAY MAGAZINE**



We would love to include some good news stories that have come out of our current situation. Or suggestions on how you've kept in touch with your family and friends.

This is where you come in!! Can you please email [ccmamagazine@hotmail.com](mailto:ccmamagazine@hotmail.com) or ring me by the closing date of Sunday 19 April. I really look forward to hearing from you. *Fiona*

# FAMILY NEWS



Can you please pray for:

All our friends whose homes have been closed to visitors for an indefinite period. We pray that the lack of interaction with family and friends will not have a long-term detrimental effect on their health.

All those self-isolating and missing personal contact with family and friends.

All those who have become ill, that they will recover with no ill effects.

All NHS staff, volunteers and other keyworkers, some of whom are moving to the frontline to treat Covid 19 patients and putting their own health at risk.

And we pray for ourselves, that we have the strength to remain in contact with and support our family and friends by whatever means is possible.

*Please tell/send any family news to Fiona Assaly: [ccmamagazine@hotmail.com](mailto:ccmamagazine@hotmail.com). We really want to make sure our prayers are offered for all our friends. Do remember the prayer chain – again, 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.*



## **Messy Easter/ Messy Church**

As we will be unable to open for Messy Easter and Messy Church for the foreseeable future we are looking into ways of staying in touch with those who come and I would like to investigate the possibility some sort of online event initially on Easter Saturday at 4 p.m.

Please contact me via church email address :  
[enquiries@christchurchmeth.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@christchurchmeth.org.uk) if you are able to help with this or would be interested in logging into an online event.

*Gill Haslam*

## **Holiday Club**

At the present time it is looking unlikely that we will be able to run our usual holiday club for primary school aged children. It would be good if we could reach out to these families in some way.

Please let me know if you are interested in being involved in thinking about this.

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

*Gill Haslam*



## PLEASE NOTE NEW ARRANGEMENTS

See weekly notices for updates

**SUNDAYS at 5.00pm**

**26 APRIL**

**led by Paul Parkinson**

**24 MAY**

**Wesley Day led by Wendy Thompson**

In March we had to not meet on church premises due to the coronavirus restrictions. We were determined to still worship so Lindsey Macfarlane uploaded 15 posts to Facebook ready for our usual meeting time and we could all read them, view the videos and prayers and listen to the songs. Of course we could all eat our tea at the same time if we wanted to as well. The upside was that some people who were not in Croydon were able to join us.

We will continue to explore ways to worship online and in person.

*Wendy Thompson*



*Happy Easter!*

***Hymn 639 from Singing the Faith  
seems appropriate at the present time  
(to the tune of All through the night):***

Through the love of God our Saviour  
all will be well.

Free and changeless is his favour;  
all, all is well.

Precious is the blood that healed us,  
perfect is the grace that sealed us,  
strong the hand reached forth to shield us;  
all must be well.

Though we pass through tribulation,  
all will be well.

Christ has purchased full salvation,  
all, all is well.

Happy still in God confiding,  
fruitful, if in Christ abiding,  
holy, through the Spirit's guiding;  
all must be well.

We expect a bright tomorrow;  
all will be well.

Faith can sing through days of sorrow  
all, all is well.

On our Father's love relying,  
Jesus every need supplying,  
then in living or in dying,  
all must be well.

*Mary Peters (1813-1856)*



# **SUPERINTENDENT'S LETTER**

*(first published in the Keeping in Touch sheet for 22 March)*

Dear friends,

We find ourselves facing an unprecedented situation as the impact of the coronavirus pandemic deepens for all of us, and especially for those who are most vulnerable. We remain committed to caring for people in a time of considerable anxiety and uncertainty while also continuing as responsible members of our communities following the guidance from the government.

The circuit leadership seeks to follow government advice and that from the Connexional Team. The latest guidance can be found on the new circuit website <http://croydonmethodist.ukchurches.co/> , the Connexional website <https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/coronavirus-guidance/> and the District website <https://www.methodistlondon.org.uk/coronavirus>.

The Connexional Team has advised that all worship services and meetings for business and fellowship should be suspended. The circuit recommends this takes effect until Tuesday 14 April 2020, at which time we will review the situation in light of the available guidance.

We realise that the temporary cessation of worship services will have a considerable impact on our members and communities. We will seek to minimise the effect by live-streaming worship services each Sunday, details of which will follow in the next day or two. Local trustees can consider whether to open their churches for prayer and reflection while taking precautions around physical distancing.

We encourage the use of technology to enable group meetings to take place remotely.

Local trustees need to consider whether they are willing for external groups to use their premises. The latest advice from Methodist Insurance (at 11.00 on Wednesday 18 March) is: "Your liability insurance will still be valid; however if someone contracts the virus on your premises, your insurance could be compromised if someone tried to make a claim against you. You must ensure that all groups are aware that worship is ceasing and that every reasonable step has been taken to ensure the safety on all premises users – reasonable is that you follow the government guidance and the churches guidance about health and safety and safeguarding." We recommend not taking any bookings for activities before Tuesday 14 April 2020, and suggest that bookings from the middle of April remain provisional until further notice.

Hopefully, we can develop creative ways to keep in touch with one another and our neighbours to offer emotional, spiritual and practical support while practising social distancing. We may need to adapt our means of social outreach, especially supporting the most vulnerable, while safeguarding the wellbeing of others and ourselves.

Churches may struggle financially during the next few months with no income from offerings during Sunday worship and with little, if any income from lettings. We encourage church members to consider making offerings electronically but also recognising this may not be possible for some people due to financial uncertainty. We encourage churches which develop financial difficulties to contact the circuit treasurer.

We will provide further information and guidance as it becomes available. People are welcome to contact me about any area of concern about the present or future guidance.

I close with an offering from Revd Barbara Glasson, President of the Methodist Conference:

*Loving God*

*If we are ill, strengthen us*

*If we are tired fortify our spirits*

*If we are anxious*

*Help us to consider the lilies of the field and the birds of the air.*

*Help us not to stockpile treasures from supermarkets in the barns of our larders!*

*Don't let fear cause us to overlook the needs of others more vulnerable than ourselves*

*Fix our eyes on your story*

*And our hearts on your grace*

*Help us always to hold fast to the good and see the good in others.*

*And remember there is just one world, one hope,*

*One everlasting love, with baskets of bread for everyone.*

*In Jesus we make our prayer, the one who suffered, died and was raised to new life,*

*In whom we trust, these days and all days. Amen*

I hope we can add our "Amen!" to those words.

God bless,

Steve

**AMEN**

## Can you stand?

Can you stand, my friend she said,  
Put weight on it at all?  
Yes, I said, when I use the frame,  
Pushed firm against the wall.

I perched my weight on the edge of bed,  
Gripped firmly of the frame,  
Raised myself to wobbly height,  
And proved I wasn't lame.

I stood triumphant,  
Towered there,  
Ooh almost five foot nine.  
Not able to reach my full feet tall,  
Though perched against the wall.

My friend impressed,  
Gave me a pat,  
Placed squarely on my back,  
Beaming squarely on my back,  
Beaming broad, from ear to ear,  
I'd finally proved my whack!!

Reversing backward to the bed,  
I sat down again at last,  
Let out a sigh, and by and by,  
Remo-ved of the leg.

By Easter, you'll be walking,  
She triumphantly said,  
One step at a time my dear,  
I'll move from A to Z.

*Bob Horne*



# Water

Water light and air  
are partners in all we see

across the water I was born  
my wife across another sea

ships and wind and waves between  
waving goodbye to loved ones

customs officers noisy trains  
mail boats once were kings

tilted gangways struggling bags  
heaving decks and biting winds

horizon makes full circle  
till the fuzzy land is seen

nighttime is the best time  
with sweeping lighthouse arcs

white crested waves lit close  
while gliding gulls hitch-hike

finally the tranquil harbour glass  
orange sodium lighting

relax anticipate and queue  
ready to carry bags again

another ground that does not move  
another way of talking

another return  
another hope

but the sun and moon  
and winds unite

above the separating sea.



# TAKE TIME

Take time to think  
It is the source of power  
Take time to play  
It is the secret of perpetual youth

Take time to read  
It is the fountain of wisdom  
Take time to pray  
It is the greatest power on earth

Take time to love  
And be loved  
It is a God given privilege  
Take time to be friendly  
It is the road to happiness

Take time to laugh  
It is the music of the soul  
Take time to give  
It is too short a day to be selfish

Take time to work  
It is the price of success  
Take time to do charity  
It is the key to heaven.

*Author unknown*



# METHODIST DISTRICT NEWS

(as of 25 March)

There's no denying that it's a difficult place to be in, and worry is never too far from our reach, but one thing we can all stay united in is prayer. With that in mind our District Chairs, Revd Jongi and Revd Nigel invite you to join them in prayer, a call to our God of compassion when we seek comfort.

<https://www.methodistlondon.org.uk/a-prayer-from-the-chairs>

We continue to update our dedicated coronavirus information page <https://www.methodistlondon.org.uk/coronavirus>, bringing you the latest information from the Methodist Church and various other relevant organisations. Please do check the page regularly as we update it frequently. If you don't already, you can also follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

Now, since the Methodist Church's guidance that all churches must close, many ministers have taken to the internet to live stream congregation-less services. This has been an amazing use of technology to ensure that church is done in ways that circumvent our circumstances.

However, in light of revised guidance from the Church regarding the closure of church buildings, and in conjunction with guidelines from the government on reducing the number of people we can come into contact with; it is with sadness that we must remind you all that live streaming of services in church buildings must stop completely. You may live stream from home, but others who do not live with you cannot partake. As an alternative, please consider pre-recorded sermons which can be uploaded to social media.

If you too will now be working from home, please remember to take care of your mental health. The loss of a connection to people can lead to feelings of isolation, exacerbate anxiety and cause stress. Indeed, spending extended periods of time with loved ones can also take its toll. We urge you to all take a moment to read through some information on how to look after your mental health during this time. Mind (the mental health charity) have published some information which may be useful: <https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/coronavirus-and-your-wellbeing/>

You remain in our thoughts and our prayers. We continue to wish you keep safe and well. Until next, friends ...

# Layworker's Listening



It does not seem only last month that I reported on a Circuit social media training event and now almost our whole lives appear embedded in virtual communication. The world has been transformed and we are challenged to live in a new way.

So, how do we love when all our usual expressions are prevented and our usual life as a community has stopped? Let's keep calm and ... listen. It has been difficult for us to listen to the huge amount of rapidly changing information in the news but when we do we have begun to understand the reasons for the changes and then form how we should act. All in all, what we know to be good and true, does not need to stop, it just needs to be done in different ways.

Routine is good for us so I encourage you to keep up with your usual routine of life. If you are a leader, perhaps you could spend the time you usually spend with your group communicating with the children, young people and leaders to support each other and share ideas for resources to nourish each others' hearts and minds.

The Methodist Church guidelines are that online communication with under 18's is in the form of group communication using an organisational account, not a personal one. If you need help with this please let me know. It is good to have at least two leaders as part of the group's administration, just as for face to face work. Parents should be aware of the group and have given their consent. Information should

relate to resources for activities rather than relationship building. All communications should be between 9am and 5pm. More information is available from <https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-work/children-youth-family-ministry/the-well-learning-hub-equipping-and-supporting-workers/resources-from-the-well-to-download/policy-and-practical-help/social-media-guidelines/>

We will also all continue to go through the ups and downs of life and there is understandable fear and disorientation added to the usual mix at the moment. For us to know that we continue to love and support each other seems even more important than ever at this time. Let's keep regularly listening to each other. This could be best done by a phone call with a parent's knowledge or writing letters even! There are possibilities available to us and as we work a way forward they will become familiar territory rather than the unusual landscape in which we currently find ourselves.

All in all, there is an opportunity here for us to listen to our changing world and to our never changing God. Jeremiah 29:12-13 says *"Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."* Therefore I have added a simple prayer diary below to help us maintain a routine that helps us to listen.

Keep calm and carry on with God,

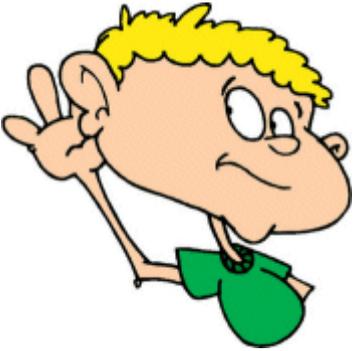
**Lindsey Macfarlane**

**Croydon Circuit Youth Development & Safeguarding Officer**

[Lindsey@croydonmeth.org](mailto:Lindsey@croydonmeth.org)

More online information via [www.croydonmeth.org](http://www.croydonmeth.org) and Facebook:

Lindsey Croydon Meth



### **Future Events**

Face to face meetings are currently suspended due to the global pandemic situation. However some events will be taking place online and other activities we ask that you pray for blessings on our community as we live in a different way.

### **Prayers please:**

on **Monday** for **Children and those who are vulnerable**

on **Tuesday** for **Families** especially messy churches and AM:PM –  
Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April, 19<sup>th</sup> May

on **Wednesday** for **Guides and Scouts**

on **Thursday** for **Girls' & Boys' Brigade**

on **Friday** for **Young People, Schools & Futures**

on **Saturday** for **Special Occasions and Celebrations** especially Messy  
Easter – Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April

on **Sunday** for **All Ages and Community** especially Café Worship –  
Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April, 24<sup>th</sup> May, 5pm online at Facebook

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> May** – VE Day Celebrations, Fairfield Halls & Croydon  
Minster – postponed



*We pray that you will all keep well  
and that our Lord  
will inspire and comfort you*

<b>Weekly Services and Meetings at Christ Church</b> <i>(There is currently no worship nor are any meetings being held)</i>			
09.15	Holy Communion (2 <sup>nd</sup> Sun)		
09.30	Time for quiet prayer (3 <sup>rd</sup> Sun)		
10.10	Songs for Worship (2 <sup>nd</sup> Sun)	Karen Taylor	
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	Crêche		
17.00	Cafe Worship (4 <sup>th</sup> Sun)	Wendy Thompson	
<b>Monday</b>			
09.30	0-5 Stay & Play	Adelle Goode	
18.00	Monday Club (monthly, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday)	Adelle Goode	
<b>Tuesday</b>			
19.00	Rangers (fortnightly)	Rosemary Dalrymple	
19.30	Emmaus Bible Study Group	Fiona Assaly	
<b>Wednesday</b>			
18.30	Guides	Rosemary Dalrymple	
<b>Thursday</b>			
09.30	0-5 Stay & Play	Adelle Goode	
18.45	Brownies	Sally Francis	

<b>Minister</b>	Revd Soon Cheol Choi	8654 5481
<b>Senior Steward</b>	Adrian Pickett	8771 7222
<b>Church Stewards</b>	Gill Haslam Sue Astington Natalie Thomas Andrew Thynne Sunday morning services only → Sunday morning services only →	Fiona Assaly Karen Taylor
<b>Room Bookings</b>	Pat Bates	