



CONNEXION



Enjoy God's beauty this summer

**The magazine of
Christ Church Methodist, Addiscombe
JULY 2020**

**Minister: Revd Soon Cheol Choi 020 8654 5481
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*

WORSHIP AND DIARY

WORSHIP		JULY
Sunday 10.30am 11.15am	5	Stephen Day's act of worship on YouTube All Age Worship led by Choi on Zoom
Sunday 10.30am 11.15am	12	Stephen Day's act of worship on YouTube All Age Worship led by Choi on Zoom
Sunday 10.30am 11.15am 5.00pm	19	Stephen Day's act of worship on YouTube All Age Worship led by Choi on Zoom Cafe Worship on Zoom
Sunday 10.30am 11.15am	26	Stephen Day's act of worship on YouTube All Age Worship led by Choi on Zoom

Also on Sundays, Wesley's Chapel has live streaming at 11.00am and there is a service on BBC1 late mornings.

Our worship continues via the internet and telephone. The link to **Revd Stephen Day's service** for either live or later viewing is <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjsqXYbmrBE9GD4hNOUVEjg?feature=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fchannel%2FUCjsqXYbmrBE9GD4hNOUVEjg%3Ffeature%3Dem-lsb-owner>

All Age Worship led by Revd Choi takes place at 11.15am on Sundays via Zoom – the link is on the email sending out the weekly Keeping in Touch sheet.

Also on Sunday mornings during this crisis, **early prayers** are being held weekly at 9.40am for half an hour on Zoom. If you would like to join in, please contact Fiona.

CONTENTS

Our Minister's letter	4
Family News	6
Cafe Worship	7
The Methodist Prayer Handbook	8
All We Can news	9
Lockdown experiences	10
Time to Pause at Stonehenge	12
Coronation Day memories	14
Superintendent's letter	15
The Cassock	18
Getting back to the Club	19
Door handles (not fork handles or four candles!!)	20
Prayer	21
Layworker's Lockdown	22

Welcome to the July edition. We hope you enjoy reading the magazine. Any suggestions to Fiona please or 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 AUGUST by **Sunday, 19 July** by email to ccmamagazine@hotmail.com. Requests for email version to above address. Thanks as always to all contributors.

Editorial team

OUR MINISTER'S LETTER



Dear friends,

I think I had better begin by asking your forgiveness for my ignorance which might have led to indifference to the pains of others. What I mean is that although I was not educated in this country I thought I knew a bit of British history as well as western history. But, I was wrong, and I have to admit that what I thought I knew was either biased or misled, or limited, particularly in the area of the black history.

For example, I have never heard about the Juneteenth Day, 19th of June when the Black Americans celebrate the liberation from slavery which was declared in 1865. It is interesting to see that this happened almost three years after the Emancipation Proclamation by Abraham Lincoln in 1862. Then, it reminds me of one of the prominent abolitionists in the UK, William Wilberforce, who passionately campaigned for the abolition of slavery and eventually achieved the Abolition of Slavery Acts in 1833.

Last year, on our way back home from a short trip to Scotland, Sarah and I stayed one night at Hull, only because we found a nice hotel (here 'nice' means reasonably cheap). But, what we actually found was much more than that. We discovered that Hull was the birthplace of Wilberforce, which was a nice surprise. In the city there was a quite big statue of him and Wilberforce House was well preserved and showed us his vigorous works on the abolition of slavery.

But, is it abolished? I think, almost two hundred years later it seems to remain as a big question. His historic achievement in law doesn't seem to make a big change in people's attitudes and understanding. That may be one of the reasons why the Black Lives Matter movement broke out. The problem is that ignorance and indifference can cause bigger trouble, such as violent or extreme actions, which happened unfortunately in Bristol few weeks ago. To me, Bristol is more like a second hometown as we lived there for eight years when we first came to England. And, I still remember some streets, like White Lady's Road, Black Boy Hill, and Colston Avenue. Interestingly these names are all linked with slavery but still used without noticing the pains and hurts they may bring.

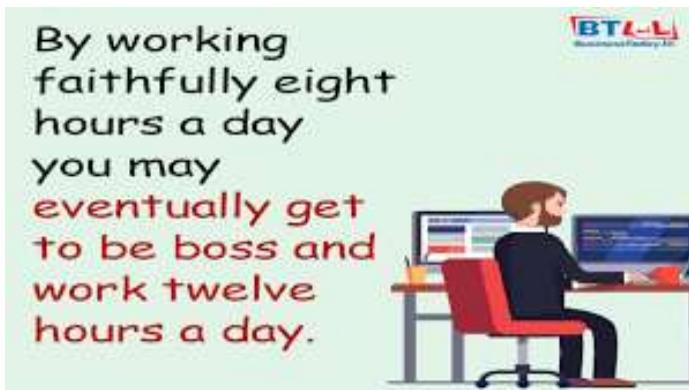
What matters here is that ignorance can lead to prejudice, which is clearly described in the Bible as a sin because we are all created in the

image of God who has no favouritism in any race. There are no races in his kingdom but one, that is, a human race. I hope and pray that we may see from each other the beauty and uniqueness God has granted for his people.

Now, I'd like to share with you a prayer used for Racial Justice in 2020.

God of justice, in your wisdom you create all people in your image, without exception. Through your goodness, open our eyes to see the dignity, beauty, and worth of every human being. Open our minds to understand that all your children are brothers and sisters in the same human family. Open our hearts to repent of racist attitudes, behaviours, and speech which demean others. Open our ears to hear the cries of those wounded by racial discrimination, and their passionate appeals for change. Strengthen our resolve to make amends for past injustices and to right the wrongs of history. And fill us with courage that we might seek to heal wounds, build bridges, forgive and be forgiven, and establish peace and equality for all in our communities. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Every blessing,
Rev. SC Choi.



FAMILY NEWS



I'm writing this as Boris Johnson has announced significant changes to the lockdown period and I pray that these will not result in any 'spikes' in infection rates. We continue to pray for all those who have been affected by the virus and for those who have been or are continuing to care for them.

We also remember in our prayers all those who are facing family illness and those whose families live far away. May they be comforted by God's loving care.

July brings several birthdays and we send our love and birthday greetings to Dell Goode (5th), Tony Clews (12th), Margaret Randall (15th – who moved from Christ Church and Croydon to the North East several years ago), Pat Bates (19th) and Ian Briggs (25th). I hope I haven't missed out anyone but if I have, please mention your birthday or celebration to Pauline Little at ccmanotices@hotmail.com who would love to mention it in the weekly Keeping in Touch sheet.

I pray that you all keep well and that you enjoy the month of July whether or not you are hoping to have a holiday break.

Please tell/send any family news to Fiona Assaly: bingham144@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.



at **CHRIST CHURCH**

All ages welcome
for an informal hour of
Worship and Fellowship

PLEASE NOTE NEW ARRANGEMENTS

See weekly **Keeping in Touch** sheet for updates

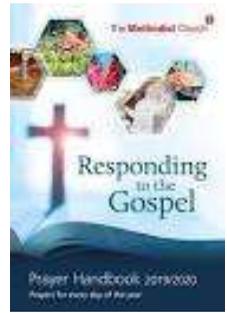
We are meeting on the third Sunday of the month

Next meeting:
SUNDAY 19 JULY at 5.00pm on Zoom
the link will be on the Keeping in Touch sheet

We are not able to worship on church premises at the moment due to the continuing coronavirus lockdown but we haven't stopped worshipping. We expect to stay on zoom for the time being but please check the weekly Keeping in Touch sheet for more details. Zoom has enabled us to explore the whiteboard and chat facilities and some of us have made short videos and shared documents on screen too. We welcome people of all ages each time. If you haven't attended before why not give us a try?

Wendy Thompson

The Methodist Prayer Handbook 2020-2021



The prayer handbook is published annually and includes a set of prayers for each day of the month focusing on different parts of the world and on all the UK Methodist circuits. There are also suggested bible readings and hymns for each day of the year with an accompanying commentary available online. The theme for the latest prayer handbook is 'The earth is the Lord's' and it will be published in August. It is an excellent resource for daily prayer and bible study.

Normally I put in an order for the prayer handbook for people from Christ Church at a slightly discounted price. However I suggest that this year it would be better if we all ordered directly from the publisher to avoid the practical difficulties of me firstly collecting in the money and then secondly of me posting/ delivering the handbooks in these unprecedented times. I will put a notice in the weekly 'Keeping in Touch' sheet at the point when the handbook can be ordered from Methodist Publishing. I trust that this will be ok with everyone.

Mary Salter

Spring Update for Partner Churches

Throughout 2019-20 we have been journeying with a community from Cherkos, rural Ethiopia, who have been struggling to provide for their families due to failed harvests. All We Can is working with a local organisation to help these communities gain improved farming knowledge, a variety of seeds, and life-changing potatoes. These Super Spuds are making a remarkable difference and thank you for choosing to travel with them over this year. This community represents the kind of difference your support is making in poor communities across the world.

Of course, the impact of Coronavirus has changed much of this work, and left communities in even more need of our support. We cover some of this in our latest update allwecan.org.uk/spring2020 and are grateful for all the ways you have joined with us to pray, give and save lives around the world. Partnership is more important now, than ever.

(via Daphne Jones, our All we Can Coordinator)

EXPERIENCES DURING LOCKDOWN

Worship on line – Zoom, YouTube, Facebook!

For health reasons I have not been able to regularly attend as much worship as I would like in person for some years so during lockdown I have been able to attend worship more often.

At first I joined the Circuit service with Rev Stephen Day on YouTube. This meant I was able to stay in my pyjamas and eat breakfast at the same time so it was very easy for me. The service stayed on YouTube so could be watched later. When Christ Church started using Zoom, I had to tidy up one seat of my sofa to make the background look good. I went for elephants as they look much nicer than the pile of useful stuff I have hidden to be sorted out sometime! I also get dressed and have breakfast first so a slightly earlier start but still possible. It is wonderful to see and hear other church members and I have led prayers a couple of times.



Café Worship is more informal so we first tried a series of posts on Facebook which we could watch when we were ready, although they were posted on a Sunday afternoon when we usually meet. We are now using Zoom once a month and three people including me have led. We used video clips for songs but now Adrian Howe plays his keyboard from his living room so we have live music again. We have found out how to use the whiteboard and chat features and documents and videos have been shared on screen. It is easy to see and hear people and have discussions. Numbers attending are the same as when we met in person and we have had a few virtual visitors too.

I am looking forward to going back on to church premises but we have found a new way to worship and I would like to see it continue on an occasional basis. I would also like some future services to be

livestreamed so that people can attend from home if they are not able to be there in person. *Wendy Thompson*



Georgiana Hedd has been dialling into Zoom worship on Sunday mornings. She says “I enjoy it. Revd Choi says ‘Are you there, Georgiana?!’ and you feel you’re part of the congregation. I hope it will not be too long before we can open again for worship.”

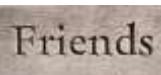
Georgiana said well done to all those who had been keeping church members in touch or as it’s said in Sierra Leone, Ekusheh!

Life away from Zoom!

Dell Goode has been recording Sunday morning worship on BBC1 (even before lockdown) and also Sunday Stories with Rev Kate Bottley (excellent series), Songs of Praise and Sunday Morning Live. This way, Dell can watch the programmes (or parts of the programmes) when convenient. Note: some of the CofE hymns and songs are not played/sung at Methodist speed so are fast forwarded! Dell has found some of the worship inspiring but not all. She hopes the new wave of reform/re-thinking will have good influences.



Good friends



I am in my late fifties and able to work from home and go out to shop which is good as I live alone. A few days ago my 92 year old housebound friend rang me to see how I was as I have a few ongoing health issues. She is a retired nurse and social worker. I assured her I was ok and was pleased to hear that her family are visiting and helping her and that she is ok too.

(Wendy Thompson recently submitted the above (and it was subsequently printed) to Ichthus, the online magazine for preachers and worship leaders. When Wendy wrote the article, she was able to go out and shop but subsequently had to shield so relied on online shopping and help from local friends.)

Time to Pause at Stonehenge

I have been walking past this statue for more than five years; it did not make sense to me. Some years back I remember seeing Heidi, my patient wife, smiling as she pointed out the pregnant mother-to-be. She said that the woman was stepping out of a chrysalis, a really strange combination it seemed to me; a pregnant woman stepping out of a chrysalis? What is the connection between a mother-to-be and a butterfly, or moth in all this?

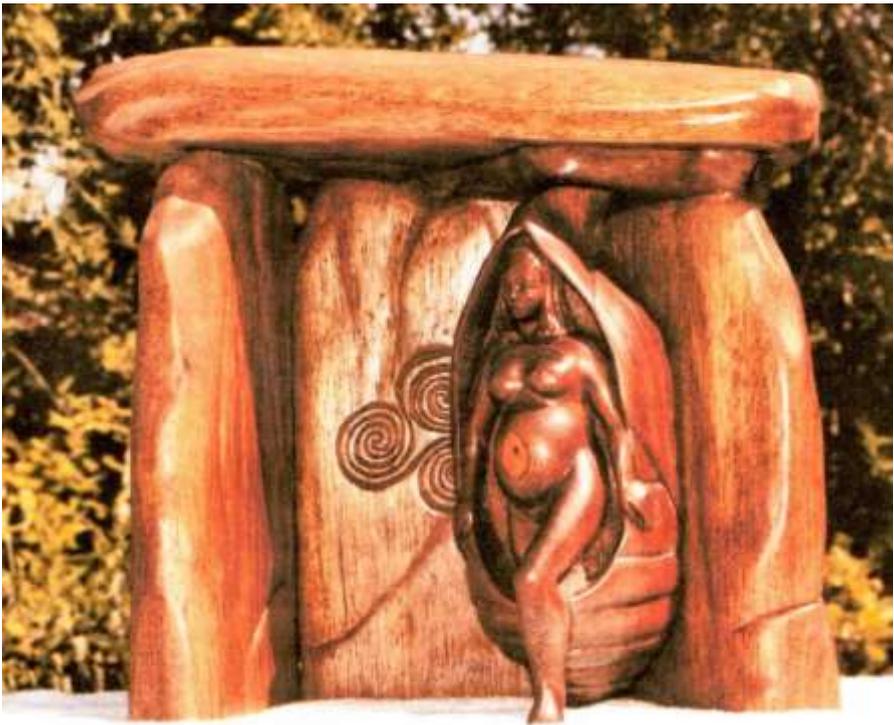
My break through thought has been that the pregnant woman is the real centre piece, but the chrysalis is a metaphor; it is as though she is stepping out of a huge life-changing process. She was never a caterpillar and as she steps out she will never become a butterfly, or a moth.

Heidi in her beautiful carving wants us to fasten on the life-changing process of being pregnant. I am convinced she wants us to understand the parallel experience of starting, and being party to, the creation of a baby. Just as the caterpillar stops its life of eating and eating, and takes a long pause while its whole being is rearranged so that it is ready to emerge wholly different (metamorphosis), so the new mother at the moment of birth is overcome by a new kind of love; a new fulfilment of her innate love. From then on she will be a mother, and

a deeply loving mother for all the rest of her life. This is the message of the sculpture.

As a mere man I am a long way from all of this, but I am a dad; a dad from the generation that was brought up to 'leave it all to the wife'. I suppose that is why I have been so slow to grasp what this wonderfully carved metaphor has been shouting at me. As in family, as in church, as in the world love is key, and the love that mothers radiate has changed the world ever since Eve gave her first birth.

Rex





Memories of
Coronation Day – 2nd June 1953

The whole country was excited – the young Queen Elizabeth II was being crowned. My Sunday School teacher had invited me to join her sleeping on the street – my parents had vetoed this.

I delivered the papers on my regular paper round. Apart from the Coronation, there was more fantastic news. Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tensing had reached the top of Everest – the first ever. What perfect timing!

When I got home there was lots of work to do. My parents were both on the committee for the local party in the nearest church hall. We had the radio on (no TV – very few people had one). We all made several trips to the hall with cakes, sandwiches, etc so I heard some of the broadcast.

Quite a few of the committee members had children of my age (14). The children's party in the afternoon was for under 15s and the evening do for over 14s so I went to both!

The weather was wet all day and one Coronation guest, Queen Salote of Tonga, insisted on an open carriage. A great day was had by all – if rather soggy.

A few weeks later, the whole school went to the cinema in Mitcham to see the whole thing in colour – we all loved it.

Sheila Szzvanowski

Superintendent's Letter – June 2020

“A Christian is one who is striving for liberation” (James Cone)

“The Methodist Church believes that racism is a denial of the gospel” (Standing Order 013B, CPD)

Dear friends,

Like people throughout the world we have been shocked at the brutal murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis. This murder has led to an international outpouring of emotion by people confronted daily with the reality of racism, including systemic racism, and all who stand in solidarity.

Recent events have illuminated the legacy of the slave trade as part of British history which usually receives little attention. I spoke about these matters with some leaders of churches in my pastoral oversight last week. One steward said I needed to prepare for a tsunami if I opened a discussion of racism because every black person will have personal experiences to recount. I know that I do not experience racism as many of you do; I must listen to your experiences of racism to gain a greater understanding and be able to empathise.

I hope that when we can gather, we create spaces where it is possible to share our experiences of racism, listen to one another and consider how we need to respond personally and collectively. I am not sure where this significant work will lead us but I pray it will enable us to be liberated to become antiracist and to liberate others in the name of Christ. A steward shared this powerful message with me following last Sunday's YouTube service: “I have grown up with this (racism) and I don't want to see my children and their children continue to suffer. I need to see a change before I leave this world.” I hope we can all add our “Amen!”

In challenging racism we can be guided by the definition of the inclusive church adopted by the Methodist Council and which identifies four key features. An inclusive church:

1. Welcomes all
2. Is disciplined in the face of discrimination
3. Celebrates diversity
4. Represents its diversity through its life and structures

I believe this valuable definition will be helpful to everyone in church and circuit leadership by providing a standard towards which we can aspire in the strength of God's grace.

During the past few months I have valued the space for more reading. I want to share four books which I have found moving and challenging and commend them to you:

David Olusoga (2016). *Black and British: A Forgotten History*. Pan Books, London.

Ibram Kendi (2019). *How to be an Antiracist*. The Bodley Head, London.

Reni Eddo-Lodge (2018). *Why I'm No Longer Talking to White People About Race*. Bloomsbury Publishing, London.

Amelia Gentleman (2019). *The Windrush Betrayal: Exposing the Hostile Environment*. Guardian Faber, London.

I conclude with the words of a hymn which formed part of the resources for Racial Justice Sunday this year. I hope you find the words meaningful.

God bless,
Steve

Christian love is not romantic,

Not soft-focussed, twee or sweet,
Christian love's not 'likes', nor dating,
Far more real than text or tweet.

Christian love means life-long struggle;
Lived-out kindness ev'rywhere.
Christian love must echo Jesus:
Selfless, soulful, steeped in prayer.

Christian love respects the other,
Seeks to understand, not judge;
Takes delight in mutual learning
Doesn't force and doesn't fudge.

Christian love's an arduous journey,
Finding self by giving all;
Serving, sharing, helping, caring;
Full response to Jesus' call.

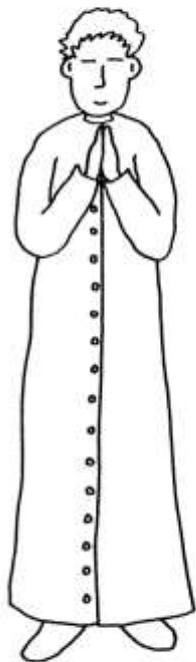
Christian love cries out for justice
Wheresoever it's denied;
Joins the struggle, makes the protest,
Stays the course, eyes open wide.

Christian love rejects what's racist,
Sexist, ageist, prejudiced,
Turns against each nurtured bias,
Learning daily to resist.

Christian love is learned from Jesus,
Walks his way and bears his cross;
Self-surrenders, like our Saviour;
Gains much more than what is lost.

Christian love is so persistent,
It outlasts all other things;
By its hope, its faith, its struggle,
It's the song all heaven sings!

THE CASSOCK



THE OUTWARD
APPEARANCE



THE INWARD
REALITY

Getting back to the Club



We're easing up, the Boris said,
Mandatory masks, must cover your head,
Not surgical ones but homemade fayre,
Now come on Boris! Are you aware?
Our members, many cannot see
We are not a sewing bee.
Now come on lad, don't be daft,
Us making masks, well maybe in Craft.

But our Club is closed, though very soon,
Its doors will open, what a boon!
Preparation is on the way,
Well that's what she said, did Fay.

Our members are chomping at the bit,
Excitement growing, so's my wit.
Our Club will open soon, hurrah!
And we will come from near and far,
Our chums will come right thro' the door,
When we're at Bedford Hall once more.

Bob Horne



- Christianity, Islam, and Judaism all worship the same Abrahamic God. Their religious texts also feature many of the same figures, histories, and places. Jesus is also a Muslim prophet.
- One of the scholars (John M. Allegro) who translated the Dead Sea Scrolls was convinced that Christianity was based on an ancient psychedelic mushroom and fertility cult!
- Christianity is increasingly popular among China's youth. As many as 100 million people, or 7% of the population, have converted to the religion. The city of Wenzhou alone has more than 1,100 churches.

Let us pray

***The Lord is my light and my salvation - whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life - of whom shall I be afraid?
Psalm 27:1***

Lord Jesus, may the light of your love come into our minds and make every thought captive to you.

As anxious thoughts assail our minds, please dispel them with the light of your salvation.

When the enemy takes advantage of our weakness, remind us of your promises that we are perfectly loved and that you are the stronghold of our lives and our great Deliverer.

Please come to those suffering from isolation through Covid-19 or from mental illness; those unable to worship or see family or friends; those imprisoned in their minds, those captive to their thought life.

Let those in isolation know your comfort and your promise that they will be free.

Give those suffering from mental illness a sound mind and shine your light into their minds to break negative cycles of thought.

Heal the memories of those who were sinned against.

May they run to you - the Stronghold of their life - and lead them out into a spacious place.

Lord have mercy, Amen.

Soul Survivor Watford (abridged)

Layworker's Lockdown

July is marked in the Methodist calendar by the annual Conference. 'The Yearly Conference of the People called Methodists' was established in 1784 by John Wesley. He nominated 100 people and declared them to be members so that after his death governance could be sustained. The Conference has remained the governing body ever since.

Originally, John Wesley did not intend to establish a church. Indeed, as an Anglican Priest, he insisted people attend their local Parish Church regularly. Methodist meetings were held mid-week, to encourage fellowship, prayer and Bible Study. They were known as Methodist Bands, Class Meetings and Societies.

Times have changed. This year Lockdown has caused the Conference planned for Telford to be held online instead. A new President and Vice-President will be inducted on 27th June and other business will conclude on 1st July. One of the major considerations will be about how the eases to Lockdown will be applied in the life of the Church.

It is at times like this that we are reminded that we are not local groups of people but a national and international family. Each of our churches form a Circuit, District and UK Connexion. We make decisions nationally which we work out locally but we are bound together by a common purpose and agreement of principles.

Young People have a say in the way The Methodist Church is governed. Their collective voice is used to directly influence Methodist decisions and for a number of years the priorities agreed by the young people of the Methodist Church have been worked through at 3Generate. Croydon based young people have attended the November 3 Generate conference in previous years and it would be good to assist them to do so again this autumn. Plans are still afoot for a gathering in the Birmingham NEC during October half-term and your prayers are asked that these plans are still enabled in the light of Lockdown please.

The summer months will be different for all of us this year however, for young people this usually marks a significant break in schooling. This year many young people have not been to school since March and usual summer activities cannot be planned. Youth uniformed organisations have suspended their activities until September. We are not sure what will be possible but we know that young people have energy! It would be good to have some options to bring us together again when schools aim to resume in September.

With best wishes,

Lindsey Macfarlane

Croydon Circuit Youth Development & Safeguarding Officer

Lindsey@croydonmeth.org

More online information via 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 and those who Care

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

on Sunday for All Ages and Community

Future Events

Café Worship – Sunday 19th July, 16th August TBC, 5pm, contact Wendy Thompson, Christ Church, for online details

Weekly Services and Meetings at Christ Church

(We hope that worship and meetings/groups will be back at Church soon)

09.15	Holy Communion (2 nd Sun)		
09.30	Time for quiet prayer (3 rd Sun)		
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)		
Monday			
09.30	0-5 Stay & Play		
18.00	Monday Club (monthly, 3 rd Monday)		
Tuesday			
19.00	Rangers (fortnightly)		
19.30	Emmaus Bible Study Group		
Wednesday			
18.30	Guides		
Thursday			
09.30	0-5 Stay & Play		
18.45	Brownies		

Minister		
Senior Steward		
Church Stewards		
	Sunday morning services only →	
	Sunday morning services only →	
Room Bookings		