



CONNEXION



**The magazine of
Christ Church Methodist, Addiscombe
JUNE 2021**

***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*

** on sabbatical until July 2021*

WORSHIP

JUNE		
Sunday 11.15am	6	All Age Worship on Zoom – local arrangement – details to be advised
Sunday 11.15am	13	MHA SUNDAY All Age Worship on Zoom / in Church – Revd Pam Clews
Sunday 11.15am 5.00pm	20	WORLD REFUGEE SUNDAY All Age Worship on Zoom/in Church - Mrs Doreen Ridden Café Worship led by the Macfarlane family
Sunday 11.15am	27	CONFERENCE SUNDAY All Age Worship with Love Feast on Zoom / in Church – Revd Pam Clews

Christ Church All Age Worship takes place at **11.15am on Sundays via Zoom or landline** – the links are on the email sending out the weekly Keeping in Touch sheet. 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>

Cafe Worship on 20 June at 5.00pm – the Zoom link will be sent out by email from Wendy Thompson. If you don't receive it, please contact her.

Also on Sunday mornings, **Early prayers** are being held weekly at 9.00am for half an hour on Zoom. If you would like to join in, please contact Mary Salter.

Christ Church Sunday worship is recorded and CDs are available. If you would like to receive a weekly CD, please contact Adrian Pickett.

Croydon Food Bank – Next Collection

There will be an opportunity to make a donation to the Food Bank on Saturday 12 June between 10.30am and 12 noon.

Thank you, Sue.

CONTENTS

Superintendent's letter	4
Church family news / Cafe Worship	6
Come and worship	7
Resetting the debt	8
A woodland in spring	10
Memories of a Sunday School Anniversary	12
Bible reading in lockdown	13
Methodist heritage sites reopen	14
Update from Catherine Porter	18
All we Can update	19

Welcome to the June 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 JULY/AUGUST by **Sunday 20 June** to ccmamagazine@hotmail.com. Requests for email version to above address. Thanks as always to all contributors.

Editorial team

CIRCUIT MINISTER'S LETTER

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God ... What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people ...

... the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

(from John 1:1 to 14 – New Revised Standard Version)

Parker J. Palmer – founder of the *Center for Courage & Renewal* – writes and speaks about issues in education, community, leadership, spirituality and social change. He tells a personal story about kindness he was shown:

I had folks coming to me, of course, who wanted to be helpful, and sadly, many of them weren't. These were the people who would say, "Gosh, Parker, why are you sitting in here being depressed? It's a beautiful day outside. Go feel the sunshine and smell the flowers". And that, of course, leaves a depressed person even more depressed, because while you know, intellectually, that it's sunny out and that the flowers are lovely and fragrant, you can't really feel any of that in your body, which is dead in a sensory way. And so you're left more depressed by this good advice to get out and enjoy the day ...

There was this one friend who came to me, after asking permission to do so, every afternoon about 4.00, sat me down in a chair in the living room, took off my shoes and socks, and massaged my feet. He hardly ever said anything – he was a Quaker elder – and yet, out of his intuitive sense, from time to time would say a very brief word, like, "I can feel your struggle today" or, farther down the road, I feel that you're a little stronger at this moment, and I'm glad for that". But beyond that, he would say hardly anything. He

would give no advice. He would simply report, from time to time, what he was intuiting about my condition. Somehow, he found the one place in my body, namely, the soles of my feet, where I could experience some sort of connection to another human being. And the act of massaging just in a way that I really don't have words for – kept me connected with the human race.

As we en flesh the words we would use to describe what we believe, we might wonder how to offer one another time, space, rest and the little things we can do that might help one another to bump into God. Recognising that even people of faith are feeling tired, vulnerable and uncertain at the moment, the call to help people to grow and learn as Christians, through mutual support and care, might feel daunting.

Palmer's story captures the ways in which the light of life reaches us, whether it's in knowing that sometimes our quietest actions and least comments really are enough, or that people can still make connections in unexpected and surprising ways when it feels impossible to us. Therein lies grace and truth for everyday living in the face of seemingly impenetrable suffering.

*“Thank you, Lord ,that You have set aside places,
Special trysting places where we can meet with You.”*

(AlistairEberst)

Revd Nadine Wilkinson

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

We were sad to hear of the death of Dorothy Ward on 8 May at the age of 98. Dorothy was, along with her husband Stanley, one of the longest standing members of Christ Church, having been a member previously at Cherry Orchard Methodist and before that at Laud Street in South Croydon. She was a very active member of the Christ Church community for many years and will be fondly remembered. The funeral will be held at Croydon Crematorium on Tuesday 1 June at 11.30am. We remember in our prayers her daughters Chris Millsted and Hilary Dunn.

As the church reopens, we pray that members of our congregation will feel they can again be in church for worship, although it will be very different for a while.

Forthcoming birthdays and anniversaries will be announced in the Keeping in Touch sheet. If you'd like a mention, don't forget to let Pauline know!

Please phone/send any family news to Fiona Assaly: 020 8654 1296 or 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.



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

*The Zoom link will be on the
Keeping in Touch sheet*

We will meet on
SUNDAY 20 JUNE 2021
at 5pm on Zoom
Led by the Macfarlane family

All are welcome for an informal hour of worship and fellowship

We are not sure when we can return to Cafe Worship on church premises and will update you when the decision has been made.

Wendy Thompson

Come and Worship



The church is asking its clan,
Every woman and child and man,
Who wants to return to the fold,
And sit in the church alas, not of old.

If you come you'll be wearing a mask,
I know it's a bothersome task,
The stewards will have guidance to give
Let's worship together and live.

Others will Zoom as before,
Sat at home or wandering in/out the door,
In church no ringing doorbell,
No strangers wishing to sell.

All sound, save the minister's voice,
Will be muted for us, not our choice.
Then unmuted at breakout signs,
Singing recorded from earlier times.

We do fully intend,
You'll prefer booking a place in the end,
To meet up with friends of the heart,
Though sitting a few metres apart.

Bob Horne,
23/05/21

RESETTING THE DEBT

A report published recently by the Trussell Trust reveals a record 2.5 million food parcels were distributed by their network of food banks in the past year.

The figure represents a 33% increase on the previous year, including a disproportionately large increase in the number of parcels distributed to children. Compared to this time five years ago, Trussell's food banks have experienced a 128% increase in need. These figures equate to 3 parcels a minute being distributed across the country to adults, and nearly 2 every minute distributed to children.

These figures only account for the network of food banks run by the Trust – so the actual figure relying on food bank parcels is likely far higher even than these figures suggest.

Given the past year, it's not unexpected that these figures show an increase. But even after a year of witnessing increasing financial hardship caused by the pandemic, these statistics make for distressing reading. Even as the economy and society begin to reopen after the third lockdown, many families have had their financial resilience shattered by the pandemic, causing increased food bank use and driving many into unavoidable debt, just to keep afloat. As the findings state, 'Hunger in the UK isn't about food. It's about a lack of income.'

The Trussell Trust note in their report that the ongoing crisis has forced many to take on additional or new debt, meaning that the pandemic will have a long-lasting effect on people's ability to afford essentials. That means that even as the economy begins to recover, some families will still be trapped in a cycle of debt and financial insecurity, which may keep food poverty levels in the UK at a higher rate.

The Trussell Trust indicate that there are three main driving factors of increased food bank use:

- Problems with the benefits system, including delays (the mandatory five week waiting time for new Universal Credit

- claims), inadequacy, and reductions. This is compounded by a recent report showing that more than 30% of new benefits claimants during the pandemic reported falling behind with bills and debt payments, and that one in six were forced to skip meals.
- Challenging life experiences and ill-health
- Lack of formal or informal support – including access to debt advice services

As society begins to open up after the third lockdown, many of us are taking advantage of increasing freedoms to eat, drink, and socialise outside. But for many in the UK, food insecurity and being trapped in a cycle of debt will mean that it is difficult to engage with a reopening economy.

Levels of debt and food insecurity in the UK have been driven up to an extraordinary level during the pandemic. It's not enough to reopen the economy to solve these issues: they are longer term, more complex, and ultimately just too big to manage through the roadmap out of lockdown and pre-existing debt advice and insolvency services. It's time to give families weighed down by unavoidable debt during the pandemic a fresh start: **it's time to reset the debt.**

From the Methodist Church Joint Public Issues Team

Family Blessings

Lord, bless our family

With openness to real communication

With sharing in all our joys and sorrows

With freedom to let each other grow

With understanding for the gifts each has to give

And, of course,

With love, no matter where, no matter what. AMEN

A Woodland in Spring

Last year's leaves now tealeafed underfoot,
sun polished holly half sparkling and a
gentle breeze with sharper shadows
elongated along the valley floor.

Pause at an ancient Beechtree with
caterpillar roots over thin topsoil:
a place to stop remember
grateful for my tolerant guided life.

See through skyward branches
the spirit of my soulmate
who discovered visions
more true than blurring words.

Meanings carved
to telling guided shapes,
talking more through touch;
an understanding that is timeless.

This Beech that elders
saw as sapling is mighty gangly and
has cleared its space of rivals;
standing hushed waiting ready.

Inviting my arrested thoughts
to discover in trust to feel,
receive a pause,
a presence.



Memories of a Sunday School Anniversary

It was a sunny June day in 1950 and the day of our Sunday School trip. I went to Tooting Baptist Sunday School. Most of us were in Longley Road with buckets, spades and sandwiches as well as swimsuits – we were off to Littlehampton. A complete train had been booked for us and Upper Tooting Baptist Church. At that time, almost all children went to Sunday School – few cars and not many distractions then.



The others had got on the train at Balham but there were seats for everyone. We were all excited. Some were on a train for the first or second time. I had been on holiday a few times so it was not too strange.

I was in Mr Blazell's class but when we got to the sea, classes joined. I was glad to be with Audrey Snow who lived next door. She is now a member of Cheam Methodist. Her aunt and uncle were both teachers – Lily and Gordon Tucker.

The weather was hot and sunny – we changed to swimsuits, the teachers looking after our things while we paddled, made sandcastles and played rounders. We all had ice creams about 4pm and then went to a large cafe where tea had been organised. After tea, we all walked to the station – tired and sunburned – before getting on the train back to Tooting. As I only lived about five minutes from the station, Audrey only nine years to my 11 years, we walked home together. I think everyone slept well and was at Sunday School by 3.00pm on Sunday.

Sheila Szzvanowski



BIBLE READING IN LOCKDOWN

Increased reading of the bible during the pandemic is leading to Christians feeling hope in God and a sense of confidence in the future, despite what is happening around them.

A recent survey by the Bible Society showed that

- 42% of people reported an increased sense of hope in God during the crisis
- 23% said the bible had increased their mental well-being
- 35% were reading the bible more during the pandemic
- 23% are using a bible reading app
- 30% are listening to the bible
- 59% were watching more bible videos or had started watching them

Part of a recent article in the Methodist Recorder

Methodist heritage sites reopen – plan your visit this summer

(from the Methodist Church website)

John Wesley famously travelled the length and breadth of the country on horseback, often at great risk to his own personal safety. His diary accounts dramatically how he was exposed to the extremes of the British weather, to those who lay in wait to steal from travellers and his experiences of attacks and threats by hostile crowds opposed to Methodism, a movement that had caught the imagination of people in great numbers across the land.



Wesley's Tree at Winchelsea, E Sussex

Wesley was often to be found preaching to thousands outside, for example, at Gwennap Pit in Cornwall, but he and the Methodist movement also influenced a great many buildings in diverse communities across the country.

Now that many travel restrictions have eased, the number of options on the menu for travel seem almost overwhelming. We are spoilt for

choice. For those who have found sanctuary in their faith during the recent dark times, one idea is to find out more about the origins of Methodism, where the sparks of the movement began and to discover the places, people and objects that reveal some of the Methodist story.



We hope that centuries on, you will be able to sense some of the energy of our roots from a visit to one or more of these sites. There are of course a great many more dotted around the country.

Gwennap Pit, near Redruth, Cornwall

Wesley's Chapel and the Museum of Methodism, London and the Wesley Hotel, Euston

A treasure trove of historic and fascinating objects including a pen used by John Wesley to write to William Wilberforce about the 'execrable villainy of slavery' in 1791 await visitors to the [Museum of Methodism and Wesley's Chapel](#) on City Road in London.

The museum, chapel and gardens will be open every Wednesday to Friday between 11am and 3pm for heritage visits. If you are thinking of visiting as a group (currently of no more than six individuals), or if you would like to join a tour on Wesley Day, please book in advance by calling 020 7253 2262 or visiting their website [here](#).

John Wesley's House, on the same site, will re-open as soon as social distancing guidelines allow.

The New Room, Bristol

The oldest Methodist building in the world reopened its doors on Monday 17th May. The New Room's courtyard and chapel offer a haven in the centre of Bristol for reflection and prayer. The chapel has a service planned for Wesley Day on 24th May and weekly Tuesday Emmaus Services happening on site are also continuing to be streamed online.

The New Room also offers a friendly Café, where visitors can enjoy hot and cold light bites, coffee and cake. The site also shares the story of John Wesley in the Library, Archives and the Museum - which spans 12 rooms. To allow for social distancing visitors can easily reserve a Museum timeslot [online](#). To celebrate the re-opening of the New Room,

the courtyard was brought to life with colourful butterflies by children and adults as part of the Emerging Hope Project which launched in Easter.



Epworth Old Rectory, Lincolnshire

This impressive Grade I listed house was the childhood home of John and Charles Wesley. Built in 1709, [Epworth Old Rectory](#) will transport you back in time to the formative years of these pioneering evangelists. Join a tour of the house, where you can learn about the different characters who made up the Wesley family. Objects on display include up the Queen Anne style staircase, a large print of an original

painting by Henry Parker-Leigh, depicting the fire which destroyed most of the house in 1709 and from which John was rescued at the last minute.

Among other events, Epworth will be hosting an exhibition in celebration of Methodist Women in Britain's 10th anniversary this summer.

To book your visit email Epworth [here](#).



John Wesley is rescued from a fire

Englesea Brook, Cheshire

The [Victorian chapel museum](#) in the picturesque village of Englesea Brook, epitomises the change and rapid growth in Methodism in the century after John Wesley's death. Englesea Brook was an early 'Primitive' Methodist chapel. Today, it houses the Museum of Primitive Methodism and it is here that the grave of one of founders of the Primitive Methodist movement, Hugh Bourne, is to be found.



The museum will be open from Friday 11th June, and opening hours will be 11am-3pm to begin with. Visitors are asked to [email Englesea Brook](#) for a time slot to limit the numbers of visitors on site.

There will be new self-guided trails for adults and children, called 'Re:Boot', which take visitors around the chapel, museum, graveyard and village.

*Anna McCrum, Senior Media Officer,
The Methodist Church.*

Our Church member, Catherine Porter, will be returning to Japan soon to continue her missionary work. Here's an update on her life over the last few months:

Dear Friends,

I hope you are well. I've been loving the easing of Covid restrictions over the last weeks in England and being able to see more people socially. Since last August, I've been able to stay in a house set aside for returning missionaries. On 6 June, I'm moving to stay with a friend from church until I return to Japan. When I have had both my Covid vaccines, I'll be returning to Japan. I'm keeping in touch with WEC Japan and the Japanese Church that is preparing to receive me. I have been asked to share harp and testimony at a number of outreach events in November (Tokyo and Hokkaido) and also one at Christmas time (Sendai). The churches are trying to reach their communities with the Gospel in an ever-changing situation. I want to support them in their ministry.

Another blessing over the past months has been the proactive support of my local church here in Bournemouth, Twynham Church. I have been offered practical support and counsel both during my time here and looking into the future. I have been working as interim Chaplain at Moorlands College. I see students one-to-one by appointment. It has been a real blessing to get to know these students and to hear their stories. Many of them come from broken homes and are struggling with the outworkings of low self-esteem in their lives. Some of them seem hardened in a way that limits the amount of care and love they can sense from both God and others. Yet despite all this, they are choosing to press into God and put Him first in their lives.

It's a privilege to walk alongside them in their journeys. I don't think I had expected as much brokenness as I have seen. This has been a good reminder for me that just because people are in Christ, doesn't mean that they don't need help and support! (I'm sure that seems obvious, but for me, it's been something to re-learn!)

I think I'm going to leave it there for now, even though there's more I could write! Thank you so much for praying for me!

Every Blessing, Catherine



Methodist
relief and
development

Three key goals are guiding All We Can's work from 2020-25, in order to help realise its vision of seeing every person's potential fulfilled.

Goal One

To create a legacy of resilient, thriving and impactful local partners.

We will achieve this by deepening and strengthening our partnership model; supporting our local partners to become resilient, and self-sufficient; enabling partners to deliver community-led, effective, and adaptive programmes; and responding quickly to humanitarian emergencies, and committing to longer-term recovery in affected communities.

Goal Two

To inspire and invest in a wealth of diverse supporter relationships that resource and grow the movement.

We will achieve this by working toward financial sustainability; developing, growing and improving our fundraising and communication approach; informing and inspiring our incredible supporters by demonstrating their impact; and enabling even more people to hear about All We Can's work.

Goal Three

To leverage greater impact in the wider world through collaboration and influence.

We will achieve this by working together with our Methodist Church family and other denominations, in our response to poverty and disasters; sharing All We Can's partnership approach and its impact with others across the international development sector; and helping educate people throughout the UK and beyond about the root causes of poverty and injustice, to help facilitate change.

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		Revd Soon Cheol Choi	8654 5481
Church Stewards			
<p>Sunday morning services only →</p> <p>Sunday morning services only →</p> <p>Sunday morning services only →</p>			
Room Bookings			