



# CONNEXION



*'The harvest is plentiful ...'*  
We pray that it is fairly distributed

The magazine of  
Christ Church Methodist, Addiscombe  
OCTOBER 2020

Minister: Revd Soon Cheol Choi 020 8654 5481  
114 Lower Addiscombe Road, Croydon CRO 6AD

[www.christchurchmeth.org.uk](http://www.christchurchmeth.org.uk)

*Part of the Croydon Methodist Circuit and a member of  
Churches Together in Addiscombe*

## WORSHIP

<b>OCTOBER</b>		
<b>Sunday</b> 11.15am 3.00pm	<b>4</b>	<b>All Age Worship on Zoom led by the Stewards Stephen Day's act of worship on YouTube</b>
<b>Sunday</b> 11.15am 3.00pm	<b>11</b>	<b>HARVEST FESTIVAL All Age Worship on Zoom led by Rev Choi Stephen Day's act of worship on YouTube</b>
<b>Sunday</b> 11.15am  3.00pm 5.00pm	<b>18</b>	<b>All Age Worship on Zoom led by Mrs Pauline Little Stephen Day's act of worship on YouTube Cafe Worship on Zoom</b>
<b>Sunday</b> 11.15am 3.00pm	<b>25</b>	<b>All Age Worship on Zoom led by Rev Choi Stephen Day's act of worship on YouTube</b>

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 from Christ Church 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 18 October at 5.00pm** – the Zoom link will be sent out by email from Wendy. If you don't receive it, please contact her.

Also on Sunday mornings, **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.

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**Welcome to the October edition.** We hope you enjoy reading the magazine. Any suggestions to Fiona please. *Please note that any opinions expressed in articles are personal to the authors and may not be endorsed by the editors.*

**COPY DEADLINE FOR NOVEMBER** by **Sunday, 25 October** either by email to [ccmamagazine@hotmail.com](mailto:ccmamagazine@hotmail.com) or by phone to Fiona Assaly. Requests for email version to above address. Thanks as always to all contributors.

*Editorial team*

## OUR MINISTER'S LETTER



*“Remember this, whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly. And whoever sows generously will also reap generously”. 2Corinthians 9:6.*

Dear friends,

This is a very basic principle of ‘sowing and reaping’, which we all understand. No farmer will get any crop, unless he goes out to sow the seed (give it away). And, the greater thing in this is that once it is sowed, it reproduces and multiplies a hundredfold. That is a divine logic, the grace, which we don’t understand. But, we may need to see that it is also true with money, and everything in our lives. Obviously, it doesn’t seem to be sensible that when we have a need, we need to give. But, that may be the reason why it needs faith, the farmer’s faith that the seed will multiply.

Over the last seven months, we all have struggled to maintain our lives as normal as much as we can, even though we have never experienced this kind of lockdown. And, as you can imagine, we, as the church, have tried hard to be the church, as a worshipping community, as a caring community, and as a supporting community. None of these roles was easy, but what’s encouraging is that our congregation still wants to worship even in a completely different set up, like zoom, and continues to care for each other and support each other in various ways, and has never forgotten giving back to God their gifts which they had promised already. What impressed me most is that our annual collection has not been dropped, rather slightly increased than the previous figure. And, I am so grateful for your generosity, which reflects your faith, farmer-like faith which is described in the passage above.

While I am writing this letter, I hear the news about more restrictions and local lockdowns, which will affect many people’s

lives immediately. As we are quickly moving into the winter time, the situation doesn't seem to get better soon. 'How long, Lord?' 'Where are you, Lord?' You may throw these questions, because we often recognise God at times we feel life most richly. But, what we need to remember is that there are particular blessings in times of darkness, in times of sacrifice. Perhaps God has been the frontline workers sacrificing their health to save others. Maybe God is at work as vaccines are trialled and developed.

In all of these, I am sure we are not hopeless; we are invited to be part of the kingdom God has created for us all.

So, I pray that, even in darkness, each of us may turn to God and experience God's good gift of life, with the faith as the farmer sows seed.

Every blessing,  
Rev. SC Choi.



## **Our Harvest Appeal – *Change Begins with a Bicycle***



Since 2018, **All We Can** has been working with a local partner organisation, FABIO (the First African Bicycle Information Organisation) in Uganda, and specifically in a rural area around Jinja. The community they are focusing on is called Butagaya. FABIO has existed since 1994 as a bicycle workshop, and is a fully-fledged charity that advocates for and champions the development of inclusive non-motorised transport in Uganda. FABIO seeks to use the bicycle as a means to change lives by empowering people living in poor households. Details of how to contribute will be in the Keeping in Touch sheet.

# FAMILY NEWS



At this time of uncertainty over the increase in Covid-19 infections, we pray for those in our congregation who are still suffering from the effects of the virus. Also that all our other friends will keep well over forthcoming weeks and months.

We also remember in our prayers those unwell after hospital treatment or for other reasons and for those who have been self-isolating for a long time. May they all know God's healing comfort.

Rosie Tompsett and Aslam had their wedding ceremony on 12 September and are living in Birmingham where Rosie starts her new job at Birmingham Children's Hospital in early October. We send them our love and congratulations and wish them every happiness.

We congratulate all those with birthdays in October, especially sending our love and best wishes to Olive Nedd (29<sup>th</sup>) and Sheila Stanford (30<sup>th</sup>).

*Please tell/send any family news to Fiona Assaly. 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.*

## **Emmaus Bible Study group**

The group is currently studying the Book of Daniel which isn't just about the lion's den!. We meet on Tuesdays from 7.30-8.30pm on Zoom. If you're interested in joining in, please contact Fiona (as above).



*See weekly Keeping in Touch sheet  
for updates*

**We meet on the third Sunday of the month  
SUNDAY 18 OCTOBER 5PM on Zoom  
Led by Paul Parkinson  
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 restrictions but we haven't stopped worshipping. All are welcome for an informal hour or worship and fellowship.



*Wendy Thompson*

## **Contradictions in Nigeria**

Nigeria is predicted to be the leading nation of Africa before the turn of this century. Already it has the largest population of any African nation.

Edna O'Brien, the well-known Irish novelist, recently decided to write one last book based on the suffering being caused by Boko Haram, a radical group that kidnaps girls from boarding schools forcing them to marry their soldiers and killing many who protest or resist. Edna planned to research this for her last book by going to Nigeria and interviewing witnesses and the damaged people herself. She loaded her travelling coat with currency pinned in the lining to fund her interviews. Her book titled 'Girl' was published last year and is enlightening but for the stories she gathered, she needed no money. The convents and church schools she approached were most cooperative, needing no persuasion.

This leads on to another point. Nigeria holds so many vibrant Christian missions, churches and schools that have changed the lives of countless Nigerians but now the positions are reversed. From the zeal of our Victorian missionaries sent out to Africa long ago, we now hear of new enthusiastic Nigerian Christians coming as missionaries to our country.

Yet Nigeria remains a country of contradictions. In police and government offices, corruption and bribery are ingrained. The law and its application set 'to protect the weak against the strong' (a principle first written by King Cyrus in OT Babylon) is maintained by hand outs and

protection of wrong doers. Healing and law-abiding principles fall to the tight and vigorous Christian communities. This highlights a dilemma. How is it that the many life-changing faith communities in Nigeria have not yet been able to influence and change the corrupt police and government officers? At this point I have to admit that my view is from the outside. There are many in our congregation who can answer this from first-hand experience. If there are any gaps in this summary, please say so.

To talk like this then turns the telescope towards ourselves. Who do we influence in our country to highlight our poor UK welfare help and the lack of compassion, surrounded as we are by food banks and harsh benefit agencies. Surely there is a plank, or two, in my/our own eyes that needs inspection.

*Rex*



## Superintendent's Letter

Dear friends,

We have begun a new connexional year like no other. In September last year I imagine none of us envisaged the prospect of a global pandemic which would have such a huge impact upon our lives. We have seen the impact upon us and those we love, whether in terms of our relationships, studies, work and health. We may have found ourselves forced to adapt our way of living in ways that feel uncomfortable and unnatural. Many of us will be aware of the pandemic's effects on people in other countries, some of which are less able to withstand the challenges than us in the UK.

September has seen several of our churches re-open for Sunday worship, albeit with limited numbers and no congregational singing. The opportunity to worship physically with others will no doubt be a welcome relief to many, even with the necessary constraints. However, we acknowledge that others may not find this appropriate for them at present; hence our continuing provision of online worship via Zoom and YouTube.

Reflecting the new circumstances for worship at the beginning of this connexional year I would like to share this forthcoming event:

### **Circuit Technology and Worship Forum Tuesday 6 October at 8.00 pm via Zoom**

This forum is a chance to explore how we have been using technology to enable and enhance worship. What has worked well? Sharing best practices and technical tips. What ideas do we have as we move on? Adrian Pickett will host and facilitate this forum. Please contact Adrian on 020 8771 7222 or [adrianpickett@hotmail.com](mailto:adrianpickett@hotmail.com) to receive the Zoom link. I pray we could continue to experience the presence of Emmanuel "God with us" during this difficult period.

God bless,

## **We thought we knew how the world was meant to be**



We thought we knew how the world was meant to be  
Day followed night, every week had a Sunday  
And that was the day for church.

*How can we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?*

We thought we know how the world was meant to be  
We made our plans, held our meetings,  
Kept the roof on the church and the show on the road  
*How can we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?*

We thought we knew how the world was meant to be.  
We would see friends, colleagues and loved ones again,  
And we would embrace, laugh and share stories  
as we always have.

*How can we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?*

And now, we know something new,  
We know that the world is not ours to control,  
And that our plans are confounded by the smallest microbe.  
*God is teaching us a new song, for a new land.*

And now we know something new. We know that church is not  
committees agendas and buildings,  
It is us, in homes, streets, hospitals throughout the world  
*God is teaching us a new song, for a new land.*

And now, we know something new.  
We only have today with those we love,  
today is the day to say I love you,  
to mend an argument, to hold on tight.  
*God is teaching us a new song, for a new land.*

*Rev Michaela Youngson*



## *Memories of* **My First Overseas Trip**

I was 15 in 1955 when a notice at school – Mitcham Girls' Grammar – said that Wallington Boys Grammar were going on a pupil exchange to Dunkirk in France. My parents were happy for me to go. There were only a couple of other girls from my school but several others from Wallington Girls as well as the boys.

We all received letters from the families in France. Madame & Monsieur Rickman wrote to me and my family giving their address and a feeling of welcome – I had to translate as my parents only spoke English. Genevieve was my other half. I was going for 2½ weeks at Easter and Genevieve would return in the summer.

We all arrived in Wallington with luggage and passports as well as French francs obtained at the bank. At that time any foreign currency had to be noted on your passport – I had £5, a lot at that time.

After a coach trip, the ferry to Dunkirk and then a short coach journey to the French school, we met our families. Genevieve spoke little English and the rest of the family spoke none. I soon learned enough French to get by – I certainly could not have lasted 2½ weeks without talking!

The food was different. One day we had pigeon, possibly taken by Monsieur as I saw a gun in the corner and also one day a meat I did not recognise. As the daughter of a butcher, I could normally recognise different meat. I enjoyed it even after I was told it was horse! One day we had a cold dessert so we all turned over our plates for that. There were never any leftovers.

M. Rickman was a barber, Guillame at 16 was working as a brickie (lots of rebuilding after the war), Genevieve was 13, Danielle 10 and Martine, 7.

We often went round the town. There were still empty areas devastated by the war. I was staying in a new house, no bathroom and earth closet. The beach was lovely and sometimes if there was a funeral, the hearse, full of flowers, was drawn by black horses.

One day all the English children with their French partners spent the day in Ostend, Several of the English pupils bought very cheap cigarettes. Being older than most, I was not tempted.

Another time, the older girls had their hair cut by Monsieur. Martine was due to take her first communion so was waiting her turn. At first I declined but later accepted. It was good.

On the last day, I wanted to go out on my own. I easily bought flowers using my improving French. I had not been entered for French O level but I could have passed!

It was a great experience. Unfortunately Genevieve was sick so unable to come to England.

*Sheila Szzvanowski*



**For apples and plums that are good to eat**

For apples and plums that are good to eat:

**thank you, God.**

For combine harvesters that gather wheat for our bread:

**thank you, God.**

For shops that provide us with all we need:

**thank you, God.**

For falling leaves that swirl in the wind:

**thank you, God.**

For puddles of rain to splash about in and water to drink and keep us clean:

**thank you, God.**

For bonfires with leaping flames that brighten the air:

**thank you, God.**

For homes that keep us safe and warm as the evenings darken:

**thank you, God.**

For all that is good in our lives,  
for all that nourishes us,  
for all that we let go of,  
for all that is fun,  
for all that lightens our lives  
and all that protects us:  
thank you, God.

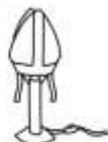
**Amen.**

# MITRES

USES DURING A PANDEMIC



MASK



LAMPSHADE



POPCORN  
HOLDER



HANGING  
BASKET



GLOVE



PIPING BAG



MEASURING  
DEVICE



OVEN MITT



TEA COSY



BUNTING



WASTE PAPER  
BASKET



KITE



PUPPET



BELLOWS



RAINBOW

CartoonChurch.com

## A Celtic-style blessing for autumn

Glorious Trinity,  
Protecting Father,  
Nurturing Son,  
Fruitful Spirit,  
Three-in-One God:  
Protect, nurture and bless us  
with your ever-fruitful love,  
today and always.

**Amen.**

<b>Weekly Services and Meetings at Christ Church</b> <i>(We hope that worship and meetings/groups will be back at Church soon)</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)		
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	Crèche		
17.00	Cafe Worship (3 <sup>rd</sup> Sun)		
<b>Monday</b>			
09.30	0-5 Stay & Play		
18.00	Monday Club (monthly, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday)		
<b>Tuesday</b>			
19.00	Rangers (fortnightly)		
19.30	Emmaus Bible Study Group		
<b>Wednesday</b>			
18.30	Guides		
<b>Thursday</b>			
09.30	0-5 Stay & Play		
18.45	Brownies		

<b>Minister</b>	Revd Soon Cheol Choi	8654 5481
<b>Senior Steward</b>		
<b>Church Stewards</b>		
	Sunday morning services only →	
	Sunday morning services only →	
<b>Room Bookings</b>		