



Shirley Methodist Church Notices

Vocations Sunday 9 May 2021

10.30am: Morning Worship with Pastor Bennie Harms

Sunday 16 May Pentecost Service with Ann Atkins



And calls US to follow HIM

Eldon Ave, Shirley, Croydon CR0 8SD Website: www.shirleymeth.org.uk

Minister: Revd. Soon Cheol Choi Lay Ministry: Pastor Bennie Harms

All are welcome to join our online Zoom services. To receive an automatic link to the service please email smchurchzoom@gmail.com Join us from 10.15am, for a 10.30am start. An audio recording of the service will be available from the Church website (www.shirleymeth.org.uk)

PRAYER CHAIN

Please contact us if you would like someone, or yourself, to be prayed for by members of our Prayer Chain. Names are only taken with the consent of the person concerned and stay on the chain for a week. You can get in touch with your Pastoral Link or contact Mrs Elizabeth Smart on **0208 777 2055** or visit our website and complete the 'contact us' form. **Thank you.**



We pray by Elizabeth Smart

We are remembering in prayer Anthony and Lesley Vigurs, Pam Harper, Lambert Rae and Margaret Reed and those who are known only to us personally - may they know that they are held in our thoughts and prayers and be comforted.

We give thanks for the safe arrival of baby Elisia Poppy to Sarah and Eamonn - sister to Amelie.

We pray for all who are mourning the loss of loved ones and we remember Irene Owens family, Akos Abadoo and her family, Alan Young's family and friends, Lis Black's family and Joan Morgan and her family and the Beacon of Hope Church family.

We give thanks for the Shrublands Foodbank staff who work hard to organise and deliver supplies to clients. We pray that there will be more offers of help to assist the deliveries - especially the recent appeal for escorts to be with the drivers to help get the donations safely delivered.

There is so much that we have to give thanks for and we hold in our thankful prayers our Shirley Methodist Matters Editors Jenny Crook and Kate Marsden who each month, without fail, produce the magazine full of articles that keep us informed, makes us smile and feel cared for in so many ways.

We hold the Hall Grange family in our thoughts and prayers. We pray and give thanks for the loving care that is shared each day in this home and as the lockdown restrictions slowly ease that we will be able to be a part of that sharing together that we have longed for.



the May magazine

Saturday 26 June: **Grand Opening of MHA The Wilderness.** Details to follow (please note this is on Saturday – not Sunday as stated in



Christian Aid Week. This year we will not be taking part in a 'House to House' collection. Instead, there are a lot of envelopes available in Church for donation. **Thank you.**



We continue to welcome you to worship in church. Please register your attendance in advance by phoning Fran Byard on 0208 405 3222 or email

smc2020kate@gmail.com. If you would like to join our volunteer choir please speak with Rosemary Jones or one of the stewards. **Please do visit our 'No Cost Garden'** which continues to flourish! The side gate looks locked – but it isn't, so you can pop up there any time.



Shrublands Foodbank: Bev Warner needs help with the delivery of food to clients and has asked if anyone would be willing to be an escort with the drivers. If you would like more

details about what this entails you can either contact Bev on 020 3441 7887/email info@shrublandstrust.org OR visit the Advice Centre 7 Broom Road, Shirley, Croydon, CR0 8NG on Mondays 9-12noon or Thursdays 12-3pm and you will be able to speak to Bev there. Donations for Shrublands Foodbank remain a lifeline to local families. Food can also be put in the basket at the Co-op on Wickham Road during opening times.

If you would like any information included in this newsletter, please forward to RUTH DODOO by 9pm on **Wednesdays** by phone: 020 87771987 or email: ruthdodoo@outlook.com



Reading: John 15:9-17

⁹ As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹ I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹² This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ I do not call you servants^[a] any longer, because the servant^[b] does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶ You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷ I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

This is the Gospel of Christ.

Praise to Christ Our Lord.

Prayer

Gracious and loving God,
today we bring our praises to You, because:
You are the maker and sustainer of all
creation, upholding all things by Your hand;
out of Your great love for the world, in Jesus
You chose to leave the holiness and purity of
Heaven, embracing life on earth, to live as
carpenter and preacher, leading His disciples
into all truth and calling them to mission;
in Jesus, You showed Your care for all people
and call us to receive the gift of life won at the
cost of His death on the cross;
to receive your forgiveness for sin through
repentance and faith and Your healing by the
power of Your Holy Spirit that we might live in
Your power and be transformed into the
image of Jesus, in whose Name we pray.

Amen.

Reflection

*While Revd Choi is away on sabbatical, the weekly reflection will be taken from www.methodist.org.uk This week's contribution comes from **Ministries: Vocation and Worship***

Recent weeks have seen quite a debate underway about relative freedoms and responsibilities in the light of actual and possible Government announcements easing Covid restrictions - these will no doubt be continuing by the time you receive and read this. This positive tension is found in our readings for today which remind us that as disciples of The Lord Jesus Christ we face a constant series of decisions about how to live authentically as people of faith.

The first section of chapter 5 in the 1st letter of John the elder holds this together in a great declaration about what constitutes being a genuine disciple. The other – and probably better-known readings from John's Gospel and Acts illustrate this well. John's 1st letter was written to a church in trouble – a faction had advocated a view of Christ that made faith more a mystical experience that need not affect how believers lived out what they claimed to believe – rather like some contemporary secular commentators insisting faith is a private matter. John refutes this – and in that sense this passage is straight forward, but his writing is also difficult – because it's plain and simple to see how far we have to go and grow! This leads John to assert three things:

1. New birth is the basis of the Christian life (5:1, 4). Echoing the encounter of Jesus and Nicodemus, John says, "Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God" this seems innocent enough, but it calls us to believe that the flesh and blood carpenter of Nazareth shows us who God is!

2. Faith in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God, is a vital sign of the new birth (5:1, 4, 5). When Peter preached at the house of Cornelius a remarkable thing happened – people from a non-religious background came to faith and were filled with God's Holy Spirit – in short, they were saved and changed. John explains to his readers: That Faith is the result of the new birth, not the cause of it (5:1). It's not the greatness of our faith that forgives, heals and changes us, but the greatness of God's faithfulness that works in us - we respond to receive that gift with as much (or little) trust as we have. Such faith has a clearly defined object (5:1, 5). Just as bungee jumpers have to trust the elastic rope round their ankles, so trusting in the self-sacrificial death and the rising of Jesus is what connects us to God in the household and family of faith as The Holy Spirit works in us. Our faith, then, has a clearly observable result which John calls "overcoming the world" (5:4, 5). The work of God in us changes us to want to do what God wants (Phil.2:12) so we are changed. When Billy Bray the reprobate Cornish tin miner came to faith, after hearing John Wesley preach, everyone saw the difference and he began describing himself as "The son of a King" – a complete transformation.

3. Love for God and His children is a vital sign of the new birth (5:1, 2, 3). As the love of Jesus takes root in our lives, God's Spirit forms the character of Jesus in us – all well and good. But, here's the rub, both John's letter and Jesus in John's Gospel say that love, self-giving love which expects no reward, love like Jesus shows is shown NOT in feelings or good (or daring) deeds, but an obedience which loves fellow believers as part of our witness (John 15:10,14,17).

We are called to become positively different from worldly standards; often when we're different we're seen as negative and judgemental, but when we're positive we're compromised and not very different.

Take time to sit quietly and ask, this week, for whom could the way you live and act show that your faith in Jesus who truly lived, died and rose reflect the reality of the life changing nature of your faith? **Amen**