



## Shirley Methodist Church Notices 2022

**Sunday 16 January 10.30am:** Revd Jennifer Potter  
**Sunday 23 January 10.30am:** Revd Nadine Wilkinson

Eldon Ave, Shirley, Croydon CR0 8SD **Website:** [www.shirleymeth.org.uk](http://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](mailto: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](http://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**

In our prayers this week we remember our children and young people and their families as they return to school and pre-school and for the staff who will be teaching and caring for them in such difficult and uncertain situations.

For our Sunday Morning Club children and for Rosemary, Jenny and Simon, we give thanks for their gift of teaching and nurturing our children.

We hold in our thoughts and prayers our church family - for those who are housebound and experiencing loneliness, for those who are unwell and awaiting diagnosis or treatment, for those known to us and who we name in our prayers and for those who we name in our hearts this morning - for Vicky Lynch-Shyllon, Pam and Alan Harper, Peggy and Maurice Graham, Lambert Rae, Reg Young, Frank and Jean Brooks, Anthony and Leslie Vigurs, Gwen Richardson, Mildred Pratt, Akos Abadoo, Sureya dos Santos and Marcos, Adele and her brother John.

For all who are mourning the loss of loved ones and we continue to remember David and Kevin Logan and their families and for Beryl's friends who miss her so much.

For the Hall Grange family, for the residents and staff and for the daily care and support that is shared. We give thanks for all who care for others whether at home or in hospital or in Care Homes.



The collection taken after last week's covenant service raised £253.90 for **Christian Aid** this will be used to enable more families to access clean water in South Sudan. Many Thanks.

A big THANK YOU to all who provided loaves of sandwiches to Nightwatch on Sundays during November and December. Another church has now taken over from SMC on Sundays. **Could you become a telephone befriender** to one of the rough sleepers being accommodated by Evolve (formerly YMCA)? This would involve perhaps two calls every week. We understand that there are some very lonely individuals who would appreciate having someone to talk to. If you are interested or want to know more please contact Jonathan Baxter on 8777 3158 or 07752 272481.

**Unity Service:** The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity takes place between the **18 and 25 January**. As usual there will be a Unity Service on **Sunday 23 January** at 6 pm at St George's where the preacher will be the Bishop of Croydon. If you intend to go please let Jonathan Baxter know on 8777 3158 or 07752 272481 or [jandjbaxter@talktalk.net](mailto:jandjbaxter@talktalk.net)



As part of their January Green Care activities MHA Communities South London (the Wilderness, 17 Shirley Church Road, Croydon CR9 5AL) invite older people living in South London to bird feeder making sessions on **Wednesday 19 and 26 January**. Email [southlondon@mha.org.uk](mailto:southlondon@mha.org.uk) or call 07597 135 220 to find out more.



**Shrublands Food Bank** is in urgent need of a volunteer to **help with IT**. Please phone the Trust Manager **Mrs. Beverly Warner** on **0208 405 9989**.

## Reflection

This week's reflection is taken from [www.methodist.org.uk](http://www.methodist.org.uk) -  
**Ministries: Vocation and Worship in the Connexional Team.**  
Original materials by Dudley Coates

In today's gospel reading Jesus and his disciples find time to join his mother for a celebratory event. When the crisis emerges, he is reluctant to help but the end result is, it seems, excellent wine. It is a sign (v11). It is striking that Jesus' first recorded 'sign' in John's gospel is about domestic embarrassment, when others are typically about life-changing conditions (think of Bartimaeus or Lazarus).

This is a story about the way God is revealed in Jesus, a central theme of the Sundays after Epiphany. Here, and elsewhere, a feature of God's self-revelation in Jesus seems to be exuberant generosity.

Perhaps the messages for us include the notion that it is not for us to judge what God can or should do for us. God is not bound by what we think is proper, or for that matter by what we think is fair. We do not and cannot control God. God's good gifts are sometimes unexpected and beyond our comprehension.

Another message could be about responding in the moment to the need we can see. That certainly seems to be what Jesus did at this wedding in Cana. Even though his hour had not yet come (v4), he responded to the host's need and to his mother's plea. What might be our response to God's unexpected generosity.

**Amen**

## Reading John 2.1-11

<sup>1</sup>On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. <sup>2</sup>Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. <sup>3</sup>When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' <sup>4</sup>And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' <sup>5</sup>His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' <sup>6</sup>Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. <sup>7</sup>Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. <sup>8</sup>He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. <sup>9</sup>When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, <sup>10</sup>'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' <sup>11</sup>Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

**This is the Gospel of Christ.  
Praise to Christ our Lord.**

## Prayer

Let us pray for the church and the world.

For the church around the world in uncertain times. With the Methodist Prayer Handbook on day 16 especially for the Church of Bangladesh, the Church of Pakistan, and the Methodist Church in Sri Lanka and for the Methodist Church in Ireland. For the congregations we know. That all our words and actions may accord with God's will for us and for all people.

For the world, for all in positions of power and influence, that they may strive for justice and for peace. For our own country and neighbourhood.

For those in need, for those fleeing conflict, for prisoners, for those who are sick or awaiting diagnosis or treatment. For those know to us. Draw near to all in need with your saving love and bring healing and hope.

For ourselves that we may follow the example of all your saints and of those who brought us to faith. Bring us with them into the fullness of your eternal joy.

**Amen.**