



Shirley Methodist Church Notices 2022

Sunday 3 July 10.30am: Revd Choi (Holy Communion)

Sunday 10 July 10.30am: Avis Blair

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 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.**



Father God, we pray

For those known to our church family and who continue to hold in prayer: Josie Riddiough, Vicky Lynch-Shyllon, Peggy and Maurice Graham, Lambert Rae, Reg Young, Alan Correya, Anthony and Lesley Vigurs, Gwen Richardson, Syureya dos Santos and Marcos, Adele and her brother John. May they know they are loved and supported.

For the residents and staff at Hall Grange and their families; for the love and care that is shared.

For our community in Shirley and all facing the stressful financial demands of each passing day.

For your World Lord, that the agents of cruelty and violence may be restrained and the goodness and love of Jesus Christ may shine in all our hearts.



Songs of Praise, the longest-running religion programme on television in the world is coming to Croydon and they want you in the congregation. The recording is on **Thursday, July 21 at 7pm to 10pm** at Trinity Baptist Church, Oasis House, 5-9 Peall Road, CR0 3EX. For **free tickets** please

send your name, address, phone number to sopcongregations@avantimedia.tv – phone **07734 030 888**

The Croydon Methodist Circuit requests the pleasure of your company at the leaving service of Revd Nadine Wilkinson, Revd Soon Cheol Choi and Lay Pastor Bennie Harms on **Sunday 24 July 2022** at Shirley Methodist Church. Refreshments at 4.30pm followed by the Service at 6.30pm. **RSVP by 11 July** to Mrs Juliet Smith at Circuit Office, West Croydon Methodist Church, 91-93 London Road, Croydon CR0 2RF or office@croydonmeth.org



Shrublands Food bank

We're supporting families in our community. **Please keep giving as your donations are a lifeline to many. Thank you.** A list of urgently needed items is

available in the Welcome Area. Food can also be put in the basket at the Co-op on Wickham Road. For more details about the Food Bank contact Bev on 0203441 7887/email info@shrublandstrust.org

If you would like any information included in this newsletter, please forward to RUTH DODOO by 9pm on Wednesdays by phone: **020 8777 1987** or email: ruthdodoo@outlook.com

Reflection

This week's [reflection, prayer and reading](http://www.methodist.org.uk) are taken from www.methodist.org.uk - **Ministries: Vocation and Worship in the Connexional Team**. Original materials by Verity Phillips

Living with settled churches, we easily forget how Jesus' ministry was that of a wandering rabbi.

The Samaritan town rejected this rabbi and his followers who were heading for Jerusalem since they must therefore support the Judaism which looked down on Samaritans for practices which were not entirely authorised; the Samaritans had mingled with people of other faiths, other standards, other ways.

James and John emphasise this rivalry and lack of respect between people of the same nation but opposite sects, which upsets Jesus. Soon he would send them out in twos to discover for themselves that most people are just people, and there's no need to attack one another.

He seems to feel alien in a world which has such different priorities to himself. Everyone seems to expect so much, but will anyone give to him of their time or will there always be other things which come first for them? He seems to reflect on this, and to decide to send out the disciples in less threatening numbers to get alongside the local population as far as that's possible; and to just let people be where they're not welcome; let go of any bad feelings by shaking off the dust.

Sometimes when we think of the gifts of the Holy Spirit we expect people to be angels at all times, but we, too, are human, and have to work things through, often by personal experience. The letter to the Galatians warns people against enslaving themselves to emotions which aggravate situations: let go, and move on. That doesn't mean we should then enslave ourselves to others' expectations of our behaviour. Sometimes we too will get annoyed. When we live freely, paying attention to God's love and respecting the freedoms of others, we will find the fruits of the Spirit naturally emerge despite our initial reaction. It's not about following rules. It's about our attitude and direction of travel.

What attitudes do we demonstrate towards people who are different to ourselves - who have different values, different ways? How might we respond to the hospitality of a Christian with whom we strongly disagree? Could we show hospitality to those who make us feel uncomfortable?

What does it mean to be 'free'? Does it mean giving in to every desire, or could it mean being open to discover God's love in new situations? Always ready to travel with him in our thinking as much as the disciples travelled the roads with him?

What does freedom mean to you - and how does that freedom impact on the freedoms of others?

Amen

Reading: Luke 9:51-62

When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; but they did not receive him, because his face was set towards Jerusalem. When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, 'Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?' But he turned and rebuked them. Then they went on to another village.

As they were going along the road, someone said to him, 'I will follow you wherever you go.' And Jesus said to him, 'Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.' To another he said, 'Follow me.' But he said, 'Lord, first let me go and bury my father.' But Jesus said to him, 'Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.' Another said, 'I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home.' Jesus said to him, 'No one who puts a hand to the plough and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.'

This is the Gospel of Christ.

Praise to Christ our Lord.

A prayer of blessing (Irish Traditional)

May the road rise up to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back,
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
The rains fall soft upon your fields,
And until we meet again
May God hold you in the hollow of his hand.

Amen