



Shirley Methodist Church Notices 2024

Sunday 31 March: Revd Richard Lowson (Easter Day/Holy Communion)

Sunday 7 April: Revd Richard Lowson

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

Minister: Revd. Richard Lowson

All are welcome to join our online Zoom services. To receive the 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.

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

We remember John, Claire and Paul and their family. May all who mourn find comfort in God's loving embrace.

For Lloyd, Joy, Alan, Rebecca, John, Revd Richard, Deacon Al, Fran, Maurice and Peggy, Dean, Brian, Eunice, Vicky, Lambert, Anthony and Lesley, Gwen, Sureya and Marcos, Robert and Charlotte.

For the residents, staff and volunteers at Hall Grange and their families.

For Revd Steven Day as he begins his sabbatical in the coming week.

For the message of Easter, that it may be proclaimed across our community, our country and our world.

For all those whose stories are front and centre in our news – for people caught up in accident and incident, war and disaster. For those whose stories are yesterday's news – for people whose lives were changed by the things that we read about, but who are now forgotten as the world moves on. We hold in your unforgetting love those whose stories are no longer seen – lives changed by loss and trauma; wars that rumble on despoiling land and livelihood; people bearing the weight of consequence, guilt and regret. In your love we pray for the. Amen

(From '**Hidden Treasures**' Methodist Prayer Handbook 2023/24. Page 96).



Alleluia Christ is risen!

Wishing everyone a very happy Easter and blessings for the coming year and our journey in the love and constant presence of Christ.



Sunday 31 March: Croydon Churches Forum invite you to a joint service in celebration of the resurrection of Christ. **6:30 -**

8:45pm at New Life Croydon, Cairo New Road, CR0 1XP. All are welcome.



Thursday 4 April: Film Night in the Lounge. 7.15pm start. All are welcome.



Saturday 13 April: Prayer Breakfast. 9.00am in the Lounge, join us for a coffee and a croissant and pray for what's on your mind and in your heart.



provided.

Tuesday 16 April: Breadmaking: 9.30am – 12.30pm in the Corner Room. Beginners welcome as no experience needed. Everything is



Bible Study

Thursday 18 April: Bible Study, 10am in the Lounge. Chapter 8 of 'The Fruits of the Spirit – Gentleness'. All are welcome.



We are delighted that the bedding and mattresses once used by The Floating Shelter have found a new home. They are now on their way to a rural area in Ukraine. The Ukrainian lady, Sascha, who collected them explained that areas away from the cities have difficulty accessing aid. She has highlighted especially the shortage of men's clothing. Can you help? If so please let Elizabeth or Bill know.

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

The Gospel

The Empty Tomb

20 Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. **2** So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

3 So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. **4** Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. **5** He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. **6** Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, **7** as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. **8** Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. **9** (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) **10** Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

11 Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb **12** and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

13 They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." **14** At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

15 He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?"

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

16 Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher").

17 Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

18 Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

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

Prayer (www.methodist.org.uk)

A prayer that all people be blessed (by *Inderjit Bhogal, President of Methodists for World Mission*)

Holy and hidden God, your mystery and majesty fills the earth and all creation. You take sanctuary in the core of our being, and in your being we find refuge and strength. All people bear the stamp of your image – an embodiment of your abounding treasure, your delight and pleasure. Keep us open to your gifts we carry within us and unveil before us your grace and generosity – the shower of your blessings in our engagements and interaction. Hold us in our brokenness. Illuminate us in our darkness. Speak to us in all languages. Bless all who live and give their lives to show us the world you desire. **Amen.**

Isaiah 25: 6-9

On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare

a feast of rich food for all peoples,
a banquet of aged wine
the best of meats and the finest of wines.

7 On this mountain he will destroy
the shroud that enfolds all peoples,
the sheet that covers all nations;

8 he will swallow up death forever.

The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears

from all faces;
he will remove his people's disgrace
from all the earth.

The LORD has spoken.

9 In that day they will say,

"Surely this is our God;
we trusted in him, and he saved us.

This is the LORD, we trusted in him;

let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation."

**This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God**

Shrublands Foodbank: There's a list of items needed and a basket in the Welcome area of the Church. You can also put items in the box at the Co-op on Wickham Road. **Every donation makes a difference!**