



The Good News Letter

COULSDON METHODIST CHURCH

No.306

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From our minister

Dear Friends,

I wonder what you think when you hear the word “power”?

There is no doubt about it, power is at work in the world today at many different levels. We are faced with powerful and sometimes unsettling displays of military power posed by certain countries. There are other sorts of power, too: the power of knowledge; the power of money has great influence, for it can buy things we want. We talk about the power which belongs to the big corporations and financial institutions. And with all that is going on within our country we might talk of power politics. There is the power of communication, which is ever more influential in the world today through social media.

Whenever we think of power we tend to draw in our minds a picture of something dynamic and loud. But there is another kind of power which is immensely creative and unifying. Examples of this power are the responses to events such as those in Sri Lanka, Manchester and Paris over the last few years, people coming together from all cultures and backgrounds to stand in solidarity with those affected. In this circumstance we see the power of silence, and the power which has its roots in our common humanity.

As we approach Pentecost in a week’s time we see another kind of power at work.

It is described in terms of powerful forces of nature, wind and fire, and it certainly marked a powerful change in the lives of Christ’s followers. What is interesting, however, in the lead-up to this very dramatic occurrence was that the disciples were simply waiting and praying together.

Those who are gardeners (that certainly doesn’t include me) will know that it involves doing what you can to prepare the ground and plant the seeds. The rest ultimately depends on God. He sends the rain and the sun and puts life within the plants so that they grow in silence in the earth.

The powers of nature require co-operation. Similarly, it is by co-operating with God’s ways that we receive the gift of His Spirit, who is often silently and yet powerfully changing people’s lives. As we celebrate Pentecost, perhaps by joining in some of the events held as part of the ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ initiative, may God bless us with the gift of his Spirit leading us forward in the month ahead.

With grace and peace until next time...

Sue

Methodist Women In Britain Purley Circuit Easter Offering Dedication Service and Spring Afternoon

Sunday 2 June. At 4pm Revd. Stephen Mares will speak on “Britain’s Favourite Hymns – and Ours?” This will be followed by tea (please bring a plate of food to share). A Bring and Buy stall will be available. The service will be at 6.30pm. All welcome.

Gun and Knife Crime Conference

It is not too late to get a ticket to attend. Young people especially are invited to join in to help find solutions to a problem that impacts a disproportionate number of youth. The conference will be held at Methodist Central Hall Westminster. On Saturday 15 June, 10am-5pm, the panel will be discussing the many issues surrounding gun and knife crime, with the aim of finding a solution to one of society's biggest problems. For more information and to book your ticket, please visit the website <https://methodist-central-hall.org.uk/gun-knife-crime-conference-at-methodist-central-hall/>

What is distinctive about Methodism?

(The first of a series of short articles, reproduced from the website of the Methodist Church)

1."All can be saved"

"All need to be saved. All may be saved. All may know themselves saved. All may be saved to the uttermost." Traditional summary of Methodist teaching

Methodists have always been clear that no-one is beyond the reach of God's love. Salvation is there for everyone who turns to God, and not just for a chosen few.

Why do we need salvation?

As human beings we find ourselves part of an unjust, sinful and violent world, which we may feel individually helpless to change.

We may feel driven by urges such as anger, lust or greed, that we wish did not control us.

We may have personalities which are difficult to manage, for instance being prone to despair.

We may be enduring poverty and hardship.

The demands of modern life leave many of us stressed and overloaded, or isolated and feeling useless.

Loss, fear, grief or guilt may be weighing us down. We need salvation.

What do Christians believe?

Jesus preached the Gospel - the good news of the Kingdom of God. Through Jesus' death on the cross, and his resurrection, Christians believe that God has broken the power of all that is evil, in the world and in ourselves. If we accept forgiveness and liberation, and are willing to be open to the Holy Spirit, God can enable us to resist evil and to live life to the full.

Floating Shelter Review 2018

The shelter in Coulsdon ran for eight Thursdays between 1 November and 20 December. As always overnight accommodation in a safe and caring environment was available for a maximum of 14 guests who also received a three-course evening meal, an evening of socialising with volunteers, a cooked breakfast the following morning and a hearty packed lunch to take away with them, so they were fully provided for until they arrived at the next night's shelter on the Croydon Churches' Floating Shelter circuit. All guests are referred to us by Croydon Reach, part of a government-funded organisation helping homeless people in London to get hostel accommodation, benefits, healthcare, training and employment.

This year we welcomed 36 guests (31 men, 5 women) over the season, compared with 29 the previous year. This represented 91 guest nights which was almost the same as last year. Most nights we actually had a full, or nearly full, guest list (maximum 14) but across the season we had a great many no-shows: 24 people failed to turn up, including one we had to exclude. Just two guests stayed all eight

weeks with us and we got to know them very well, whereas 17 spent only one week with us. There are various reasons for this: a few moved on quickly into more stable accommodation (shared flats or hostel rooms); one or two went into hospital and we lost track of them; many had more complex needs and were unable to cope for long with the basic rules of the shelter; others were quite entrenched rough sleepers and getting them to engage at all with the shelter with a view to moving forward in their lives was possibly a good thing, even if they did not stick with it this time. Broadly speaking for those who stayed with us the evenings were spent companionably; all ate heartily and the atmosphere was good with notable examples of guests supporting one another at difficult times.

If you feel that you could help this year, either at the shelter on the night, or in a support role such as laundry or cooking, feel free to talk it through with me. We are urgently looking for someone to coordinate the laundry, which involves organising a rota of volunteers, arriving early on the eight Friday mornings to collect the bedlinen and distributing it to volunteers around Coulsdon, then collecting the clean laundry and delivering it back to the shelter on the following Thursday evening.

Sue's leaving service

As you all know, Rev. Sue Shortman will be moving on this summer to a new Circuit in the West Midlands. Sue's leaving service will be on Sunday 28th July with Tea at 4pm and the Service at 6pm. As well as us, Sue looks after two other churches in the Purley Circuit, so the service will take place at South Croydon United Church, Aberdeen Rd, Croydon, CR0 1EQ. Buses 60, 166 and 466 pass close by, but if you would like a lift, don't be afraid to ask around!

Church diary

Sun 2 June	8.45am	Bible study and breakfast
	10am	Holy Communion (Rev. Sue Shortman)
	4pm	"Our favourite hymns" & Tea (<i>see above</i>)
	6.30pm	Easter Offering service
Tue 4 June	10am	Coffee, cakes & company <i>at Whitethorn Ave.</i>
Thu 6 June	10.30am	Open church
Sun 9 June	10am	Morning worship (Rev. Jack Beeson)
Mon 10 June	8pm	Open to question (<i>at Sanderstead M.C.</i>)
Thu 13 June	10.30am	Open church
Sat 15 June	4-6pm	Messy church
Sun 16 June	10am	Morning worship (local arrangements)
	6.30pm	Holy Communion (<i>at Whitethorn Avenue</i>)
Mon 17 June	10am	Coulsdon craft club (<i>Storage pot</i>)
Thu 20 June	10.30am	Open church
Sun 23 June	10am	Morning worship (Brian Brooks)
Wed 26 June	2.30pm	Time for tea
Thu 27 June	10.30am	Open church
Sun 30 June	10am	Morning worship (Curtis Juman)
Tue 2 July	10am	Coffee, cakes & company <i>at Whitethorn Ave.</i>
Thu 4 July	10.30am	Open church
Sun 7 July	10am	Holy Communion (Rev. Sue Shortman)
	3pm	Circuit Meeting (<i>in our church; open to all</i>)