

CPSO METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Lent/Easter 2020



Minister's Letter - Journey into Lent

Our Lent journey begins! We make our way with Jesus towards Jerusalem and the Cross. This year we are exploring that journey and the places en-route through our Lent Group **"Places on the Way"**. We are stopping off at a village wedding in Cana, climbing new heights at the mount of Transfiguration, finishing up at the Via Dolorosa in Jerusalem as Jesus makes his way to Golgotha. We will be exploring what the journey meant to Jesus and the journey we make this Lent. *(See later in the newsletter for details)*

Following on from the soap cross, this Lent I am asking for you to make pom-poms - brown wool pom-poms of various sizes and shades of brown. Make as many as you can during the six weeks of Lent and then join the team putting the cross together. *(More information to follow)*

Maundy Thursday we are still going to gather for a shared meal and worship in the small hall at Bushey and Oxhey Church but this year it will be a 'bring & share' supper *(details to follow)*.

Finally, Good Friday, as churches together in Bushey and Oxhey, this year we are trying something slightly different. During Passiontide you will be asked to take some purple ribbons and tie them in prominent places (purple being a symbol of the passion). We will gather outside St. Andrews at 9.30am for a short act of worship before walking (or driving) down to the small park opposite St Peter's for another short reflection. This will finish around 10am when you are invited to stay for hot cross buns and drinks at St Peter's. There will be something happening in Carpenders Park and South Oxhey *(again watch for details)*.

One day I would really love to follow in Jesus' footsteps - to walk the Via Dolorosa - but this year it's a Bushey Good Friday. In a way the destination doesn't really matter; it's the journey we make, the people we share the journey with and the lengths our God goes to to show his love for you and me.

Have a good Lent.



An Easter prayer

When everything was dark
and it seemed that the sun would never shine again,
your love broke through.
Your love was too strong,
too wide,
too deep,
for death to hold.
The sparks cast by your love
dance and spread
and burst forth
with resurrection light.
Gracious God,
We praise you for the light of new life
made possible through Jesus.
We praise you for the light of new life
that shone on the first witnesses of resurrection.
We praise you for the light of new life
that continues to shine in our hearts today.
We pray that the Easter light of life, hope and joy,
will live in us each day;
and that we will be bearers of that light
into the lives of others.

Amen

Written by Michaela Youngson, Chair of London District 2014.





Regular events

Worship

Worship at CP&SO is usually at 9.30am (unless stated otherwise). You can find details of services on the [CPSO website](#) or church notice board. Holy Communion is normally celebrated once a month. In the Methodist Church everyone is invited to participate in Holy Communion.

The morning service is followed by coffee and tea in the foyer/lounge. There is not currently a morning service on the third Sunday of the month

Other Activities

Activity		When it happens
Pop Up Café		1 st and 3 rd Thursday of the month at 10.30am
Ecumenical House of Prayer <i>at the Baptist Church</i>		Every Thursday at 1.30pm
Bread Making		2 nd & 4 th Thursday of the month at 10am
Film Club		3 rd Thursday at 1.15pm and 3 rd Saturday of the month at 7.15pm See Upcoming Events for details of Opera night in May
Messy Church		3 rd Sunday of the month at 3.30pm
Rainbows, Brownies and Guides		If you would like to know more, please visit www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested or call 0800 1 69 59 0

Note: April has a 5th Thursday (30th) so no events that day.

External Groups

CPSO hall is hired out to several external groups. You can find a list of these on the [CPSO website](#). [Jenny Board](#) is the contact for groups wanting to make regular bookings.



Special events in the coming months

Date	Time	Event	Contact
29 Feb 2020	2pm - 5pm	Circuit discussion on the report “ God in Love unites us” at High Street, Harpenden	Richard Lowson
6 March 2020	7.30pm	World Day of Prayer Service at CPSO <i>See article in the newsletter</i>	Pauline Rogers
1 April 2020	11.00am	St Albans Cathedral Free Church Service in the Lady Chapel. <u>Preacher:</u> The Reverend Rachael Hawkins Co-Superintendent of the West Herts and Borders Circuit Email:simoncarver@btinternet.com	Simon Carver
10 April 2020	11.00am	<u>Good Friday Walk</u> followed by hot cross buns at CPSO at 11.00am or 9.30am starting at St Andrew’s (see Richard’s letter)	Jenny Board Richard Lowson
2 May 2020	11.00am - 1.30pm	<u>CPSO Spring Fair</u> - a celebration of local clubs and societies. Book a table to advertise your club’s activities. <i>See article in the newsletter</i>	Jenny Board Pauline Rogers
2 May 2020	6.30pm	Film Club: an opera with refreshments served during the interval. Details nearer the time	Jenny Board
6 May 2020	11.00am	St Albans Cathedral Free Church Service in the Lady Chapel. <u>Preacher:</u> The Reverend Ian Green Baptist Minister, Amersham Free Church Email:simoncarver@btinternet.com	Simon Carver
30 May 2020	10.30am - 12 noon	CPSO Messy Church has a table at All Saints’ Church tabletop sale. Pauline and Chris will also have a Traidcraft stall.	Jenny Board
3 June 2020	11.00am	St Albans Cathedral Free Church Service in the Lady Chapel. <u>Preacher:</u> The Reverend Canon Kevin Walton Canon Chancellor, St Albans Cathedral Email:simoncarver@btinternet.com	Simon Carver



Thank you from QVSR - from Pauline

[Queen Victoria Seamen's Rest](#) (QVSR) at Tilbury have sent us a thank you letter from the Container Ship, M/V CMA CGM AFRICA ONE, that received our Christmas gifts (see photo).



The captain addressed the letter to Kay, one of the Brownies who had made the cards we sent with our gifts. The letter read:

Dear Kay,

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the crew of CMA CGM AFRICA ONE.

Thank you for your card.

Best wishes

Captain Allen Daniel Mason

(Master of CMA CGM AFRICA ONE)

AFRICA ONE has a crew of twenty-five men and the letter contained the name, photograph and rank of each member of the crew.



Watford Philharmonic Society (WPS) will be performing Handel's Messiah on Saturday April 25th. The performance will be at Watford Colosseum at 7.30pm.

Soloists Emily Rowley-Jones, Helen Stanley, Nick Allen and Geoff Williams will join the Choir and Orchestra under the baton of WPS musical director Michael Cayton, to perform Handel's greatest masterpiece. They will be joined by the celebrated timpanist Tristan Fry.

Tristan began his career as a timpanist with the London Philharmonic Orchestra, aged 17. During his career he has worked with many pop and rock groups including The Beatles, Frank Sinatra, Olivia Newton-John, and Elton John. For over 15 years he was the drummer with the progressive rock group Sky.

If you buy tickets through Watford Colosseum, they will charge a booking fee for each ticket. Pauline can buy tickets for you through the Society without the booking fee.



Lent Groups - from Pauline and Richard

All Saints' Church are running two Lent groups: Thursday morning after the Communion at All Saints and Friday evening at 8pm in Carpenders Park.

These groups are open to everyone and Pauline has more details about the courses and locations.

Richard will be running a Lent group called “ Places on the way to the Cross”, a journey to Jerusalem stopping off at significant places en-route.

Tuesday evenings at St Andrews at 7.45pm

Wednesday mornings at Bushey and Oxhey - 10.45am for coffee for 11am start followed by optional soup lunch for Christian Aid.



CPSO Spring Fair Saturday 2 May 2020 - from Pauline

Our summer event this year will be a month earlier than usual so please make sure you have the date in your diaries.

We are inviting local clubs and societies to advertise their activities and raise funds at no cost to them.

The Belmont Theatre Group will be coming to entertain us and there will be the usual church-organised barbeque, Tombola, drinks and homemade cakes, Traidcraft stall etc. Our church activities, e.g. bread-making, will also be advertising themselves.

The event will open at 11am and run to 1.30pm.

If you know a group who would like to book a table, please contact Pauline Rogers (020 8428 6039) or Jen Board (mnj.board@virginmedia.com)



To Belong - from Pauline

You have all been invited at this time to this place
We don't just want an invitation: We want to be welcomed.

You are all offered a warm welcome to this place
We don't just want a welcome: We want to have a voice.

You are all welcome and this is a place for listening
We don't just want a voice: We want it to be heard.

You are all welcome here and your story will be heard
We don't only want to be heard: We want to be believed.

You are all welcome to this place where no truth is denied
We don't only want to be believed: We want to be trusted.

You are welcome to this place where your words are accepted
We don't only want to be trusted: We want to be loved.

You are welcome to this place where God's love embraces all
We don't only want to be loved: We want to know we belong.

Whoever belongs to God, belongs among us, for we are one in Christ

by Robert Becher (from a URC booklet of stories and reflections for Racial Justice Sunday and published in the CHURCH TIMES 7 February 2020)

I shall keep this reflection in mind when the time comes for me to vote on 'GOD IN LOVE UNITES US', The Report of the Marriage and Relationships Task Group 2019, at the Spring Synod.



World Day of Pray 6 March - from Pauline and Rita

CPSO will be hosting this year's World Day of Prayer service at 7.30pm on Friday 6 March.

The service has been prepared by women in Zimbabwe.

Sybil, Rita and Sandy will be organising the refreshments and they would appreciate donations of homemade cakes. Please label your cakes appropriately e.g. gluten-free, dairy-free, made with real butter, made with margarine, egg free etc.

We want to display items used by people in Zimbabwe. If you own any of the following, please may be borrow them?

- African musical instruments such as hand rattles, drums, marimba, mbira, tambourines, saxophone (so far, we have one hand rattle, a rainmaker and a tambourine).
- African crafts e.g. reed or sisal mats, clay pots, beads, reed baskets, winnowing baskets, duri, guyo (so far, we have some African carved items and bead decorations from jars of African herbs).
- Any African artwork.

Pauline and Chris will run a Traidcraft table and this year's Easter Eggs will be on sale.

You will note the change of name from Women's World Day of Prayer to World Day of Prayer. Although the service is still prepared by women from a particular country, the day is a day of prayer for everyone, not just women. Everyone is welcome to attend.

This year at our preparation meeting we had two men join us; Richard who will be playing the organ and Chris who will be running the PA system. Thank you.



E-mail version of the newsletter

If you would like an email copy of this newsletter, please email me at simonccollier@btinternet.com. In your email please state that you confirm that you consent to me holding your email address for the purpose of sending you the CPSO newsletter.

Deadline for the Whitsun newsletter - Friday 8th May 2020