

# Parish

£1

# Magazine



June/ July 2018

Chichester Road, Croydon

[www.stmatthew.org.uk](http://www.stmatthew.org.uk)

Registered Charity No: 1132508

# **Services at St Matthew's**

## **Sunday Morning Services**

**1st 3rd 4th and 5th Sundays**

**8.30 am Eucharist (Said)**

**10.00 am Parish Eucharist with Choir and Children's Groups  
followed by tea and coffee in the foyer**

**2nd Sunday**

**8.30 am Eucharist (Said)**

**10.00am All Age Service**

## **Sunday Evening Service**

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday 5.00pm Healing Service with Prayers**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday 6.00pm as announced**

## **Morning Prayer**

**Monday to Thursday 7.45 am**

**Tuesday**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday 3.30pm**



**Wednesday**

**10.00 am Holy Communion (Said)**

**Baptisms, Weddings and Banns of Marriage**

**By arrangement with the Vicar**

### ***St Matthew's Vision***

***'Celebrating God's love throughout the whole  
community***

***By what we believe and do'.***

## The Vicar Writes...

Dear Friend,

During the month of June we welcome Darius Weithers, Grace and Amayah and Talia into the parish as they move from Bristol to their new home in Turnpike Link. On Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June Darius will be ordained as Deacon at Southwark Cathedral, so on July 1<sup>st</sup> we will welcome him and his family to St Matthew's church. During his time with us, Darius will be preparing for the next stage of his ministry, which is likely to involve taking quite considerable responsibility, either as incumbent or in a chaplaincy. The three to four years of curacy are crucial years of formation and building strong foundations for a lifetime of service within the church.

There are some very helpful reminders later in this magazine of how all of us can help and support Darius and his family as they make this transition from academic training to life in a parish. I am very much looking forward to having Darius as a colleague and I am very confident that he will bring a great deal to us, as well as to St Andrew's, in the months and years ahead.

Following the service on 1<sup>st</sup> July we will be having a bring and share lunch in the church hall so please put that date in your diary.

The most important way to support those in ministry is through our prayers. I am so grateful to all those who pray for me, as I am all too aware of my reliance on the Lord in all that I do. So thank you for your prayerful support. I have heard prayer described as "wasting time with God", which really means that time spent in prayer, i.e. being conscious of God's presence, seeking his kingdom, longing for his will to be done, etc. is never a waste of time. Prayer should be the heartbeat of our Christian discipleship; sometimes it can be hard, or we can feel as though our words are bouncing off the ceiling, but the reality is that the Lord loves to hear and answer our prayers. We may never see the answer to our prayers in this life, but we can be sure that every prayer we have ever prayed has been answered - even if that answer has had to be sometimes a definite "NO"! There is a wonderful picture in the book of Revelation of golden bowls full of incense "which are the prayers of God's people" (Rev. 5.8) cf Rev. 8. The implication of these verses is that we have a direct part to play in the working out of God's purposes for the world, by our praying. But we must also be willing to



be the answer to our own prayers, by actions that also help to establish the Kingdom of heaven on earth.

May we never cease from this vital work of prayer and may the Lord himself inspire us when we pray so that whether or not we see answers here and now, we may know that God has used even our halting and inadequate prayers to bring about his will to the praise of his glory.

With my love and prayers

*Simon*

### **Persecuted Church Prayer Meeting**

On Monday 18<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm at the Vicarage we will be having our next Persecuted Church Prayer Meeting. There are so many countries around the world where it is extremely hard to practice one's Christian faith. Please come and pray for our sisters and brothers who are in such great need. Thank you.

### **ICTIAC Prayer Meeting**

On Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm there is another opportunity to pray! There is an ICTIAC (In Croydon There Is A Church) prayer meeting at Trinity Baptist Church, 2 Thornlaw Road, SE27 0SA. All are very welcome.

### **Stewardship Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June**

Stewardship Sunday will be on 24<sup>th</sup> June, (postponed from 3<sup>rd</sup> June) when there will be a presentation on the finances of the church. It is at this service that we invite everyone to review their giving to St Matthew's, so please pray first of all that the Lord will continue to meet all our needs out of the riches of his grace, and secondly please pray about the amount of financial support you are able to give to the church. There are increasing costs associated with housing the Curate's family, so please consider whether you are able to help with covering these costs. Thank you. Please do come to this special service.



## **Cake Sale in aid of the Shelter - Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June**

On Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June there will be a Cake Sale after church to raise money for the Floating Shelter.

## **Choral Evensong - Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> July**

On Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> July at 6.00pm there will be a service of Choral Evensong. Do come along and enjoy this lovely service, full of wonderful music.



Don't forget that Prayer Ministry for healing is available in the Lady Chapel after the 10.00am service every Sunday.

## A spring reflection – “The vision of heaven”

From the previous bi-monthly issue of “Every Day with Jesus” Bible reading notes written by Selwyn Hughes. For reading and meditation – Philippians 1 v 12- 20

“For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.”

St Augustine said, “The whole life of the good Christian is a holy longing.” A longing for what? It is a longing for the culmination of all our hopes and desires when we see Jesus and are joined to Him forever. Some Christians maintain that we ought to think more about earth than we do of heaven. “Live to make earth a better place,” they say, “and heaven will take care of itself.” There is some truth in that of course, but study the lives of the saints of the past, and you will find that they kept alive in their hearts the desire for heaven.

Jesus has gone on before us. He is there right now. What kept Him moving towards the goal, “enduring the cross, scorning its shame?” The joy that was set before Him. We do not neglect our duties and responsibilities here on earth but I don’t believe we will ever run the race effectively unless we keep the vision of heaven always before us. The deeper the desire for heaven grows within us, the more adrenaline, to use Eugene Peterson’s words (the “Message” translation), will be shot into our souls.

**One** Christian testifies as to how the prospect of heaven influences his daily living: “I am a fortunate man. My friends and family love me, but sometimes they let me down. When I feel the pain of their failure I can retreat into cynicism (isn’t that the way life is?), or become more demanding (you must never do that to me again). Or, I can let it be a reminder that a day is coming when we can all live in perfect love. I can let the ache lead me deeper into my heart and higher toward heaven.” This is how Jesus lived and so can we.



“The Plains of Heaven” by John Martin (At Tate Britain)

## Praying for Croydon



MP's, Councillors, the Police and all  
in authority

**“.....Requests, prayers,  
intercessions and thanksgiving  
.....for kings and all those in  
authority.” (1 Timothy 1: 1 &2)**

We commit to praying for our  
politicians. The Police and all the  
leaders in Croydon who work hard on  
our behalf.

Croydon MPs: Sarah Jones (Croydon Central)

Steve Reed (Croydon North)

Chris Philp (Croydon South)

Croydon Council Leader: Tony Newman

Croydon Chief Executive: Jo Negrini

Police Borough Commander: Jeff Boothe

Please pray:

- For integrity at work and at home, and wise leadership.
- For policy-making, budget management, team building and voting that reflects God's heart for social justice.
- For wisdom to know how to prioritise and meet Croydon's pressing social and economic needs.
- For all -round safety in our borough.

## Remembering the Persecuted Church

In the previous issue I cited some deeply harrowing cases of how Christians in three countries were persecuted, tortured and killed for their faith. I'm going to share with you some ways that the Barnabas Fund (one of several charities helping the plight of beleaguered Christians) is helping.

### Still caring for the displaced, needy and sick in the valley of the Christians



The bitter civil war in Syria may be largely over, but displaced Christians remain in severe need. Wadi al-Nasara (Valley of the Christians) has been a place of refuge for many who fled violence elsewhere. They found security, but how could they support themselves?

Rose was forced out of her Christian village soon after the war began. She fled, with her three children, her widowed mother-in-law and another female relative, to the Valley of the Christians. Her husband (like many Christian men) had been kidnapped by militants and she has had no news of him for five years. Two of her children are sick and need expensive medicines. Rose, a university graduate, has found a cleaning job but it does not pay enough for the family's needs. Barnabas is helping Rose and other displaced families in the Valley.

(£50,000 to help displaced believers in Wadi al-Nasara)

### Widows and disabled: helping the most vulnerable Iraqi Christians

William's three adult daughters are all disabled and need medication. His wife has recently had a stroke. This Christian family fled from Mosul, the Iraqi city seized by Islamic State militants four years ago, and now live in Iraqi Kurdistan. Caring for them all, and buying the necessary medicine was a terrible struggle for William, but a gift from Barnabas Fund made all the difference. "It took a lot of weight off my shoulders. I can't describe my happiness." William was one beneficiary of a special project to give some extra help to widowed, disabled and seriously ill Christians in Iraqi Kurdistan. All had fled from Iraq during the terrible years of war.

(£10,000 to help disabled and widowed Christians in Iraqi Kurdistan)

## Food for Christian refugee children from Myanmar

Fatherless, motherless and a refugee – this is a hard burden for a child to bear. But many young Christians from Myanmar (Burma) are bearing it with faith and courage. Barnabas Fund is helping to feed 75 of these brave children who live in two children's homes, cared for by loving local believers. The daily basics of rice, oil, onions, fish paste and vegetables cost about £9. Meat and eggs are provided twice a week. Most of the refugee children are ethnic Karens, a group that has been severely persecuted by the military. In many cases their parents have been killed. In other cases the children became separated from their parents by the upheavals of violence and do not know whether they are dead or alive.



(£3,500 contribution towards costs of food for six months)

## Resourcing Indonesian church-planters

A floor. A ceiling. A road. School fees. School uniforms. Rice. Motorcycle tax. Electricity bill. Surgery. Chemotherapy. 4000 bricks. Dentist's bill. Ministry transport costs. Milk for a 4-year old.

These are some of the needs met by Barnabas Fund for 40 pioneering church planting couples, serving in Muslim communities of Indonesia, living very simply and often facing great hostility. Pius's wife had typhoid, but they could only afford to buy medicine and have the midwife examine her .....until the gift from Barnabas arrived. Then his wife spent a week in hospital and recovered.

Stefanus and his wife, both getting on in years, live in a run-down bamboo house, which is also used as the church. The mud floor was very hard to keep clean. Stefanus could hardly believe it when a gift from Barnabas provided a proper floor.

£18,750 to help 40 church-planting couples with living costs, ministry costs, renovation and medical needs for one year.



Story behind the hymn “May the mind of Christ my Saviour”

May the mind of Christ my Saviour  
Live in me from day to day,  
By His love and power controlling  
All I do and say

May the word of God dwell richly  
In my heart from hour to hour,  
So that all my see I triumph  
Only through His power.

May the peace of God my Father  
Rule my life in everything,  
That I may be calm to comfort  
Sick and sorrowing.

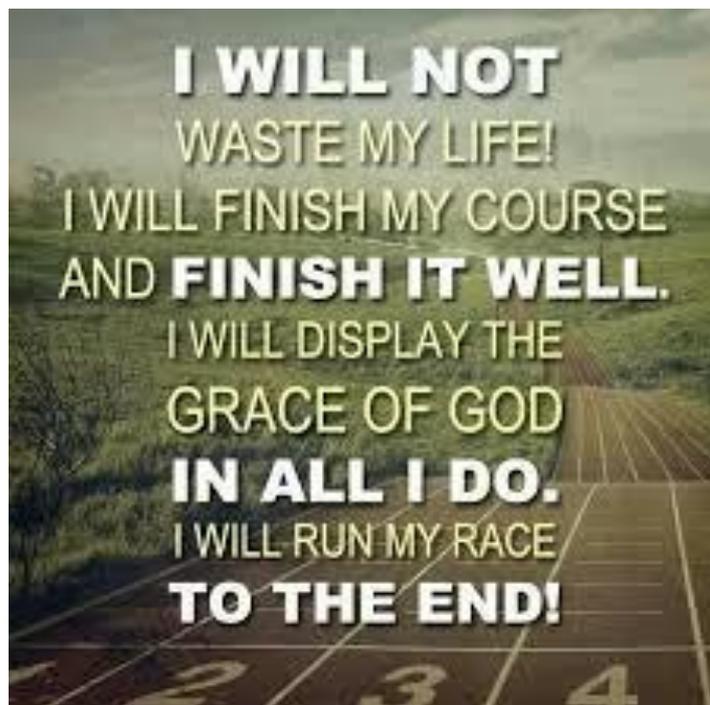
May the love of Jesus fill me,  
As the waters fill the sea;  
Him exalting, self abasing  
This is victory.

May I run the race before me,  
Strong and brave to face the foe  
Looking only unto Jesus  
As I onward go

Katie Barclay Wilkinson wrote this hymn sometime before 1913, but it was not published until 1925 by CCSM in its hymn- book Golden Bells. Little is known of Mrs Wilkinson. She was born in 1859 and belonged to the Anglican Church and was an active member in West London amongst

young women. She was living in Kensington, London, when she died on 28<sup>th</sup> December 1928, but her husband, Frederick Barclay Wilkinson, outlived her by nine years.

Though this hymn was designed for young people in the evangelical wing of the Church of England it has since become popular in a wider circle. It is a beautiful prayer, simple in style and comprehensive in its spiritual aspirations. In all probability Katie based it on Paul's letter to the Philippians (2:5) where he encourages his favourite church (cf chapter 1:3)



to follow the mind of Christ which was epitomised in his humility and sacrificial service. In fact the verses of Philippians chapter 2 (5-11) were used as a hymn by the Early Church and they linked them with the frequently quoted prophecies of Isaiah in chapter 53.

Christ's mind in us means that his love will be present to control us, his Word to sustain us, his peace to calm us and his example to guide us. Another interesting feature of the hymn is seen in the words of this verse: "May I run the

race before me, strong and brave to face the foe, looking only unto Jesus as I onward go." Here Mrs Wilkinson is drawing on the imagery of the figure of a runner in a race which we find in Hebrews 12v 1: "Let us run with patience the race that is set before us. "The secret of success for the runner is given in verses 2 & 3 of that chapter which is in two phrases: "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith" and "consider him that endured ... lest you be wearied and faint in your minds."

A good piece of psychology for the runner is found here. He is told to look to Jesus the alpha and omega of our faith, that is, the one who embodies the completeness of our faith. Everything for and about our faith is right here in Jesus. So, as we keep looking to Jesus as we keep running, the active part of our Christian life, we will be kept true and heading for the right winning post. The next phrase, "consider him," refers to the contemplative side of the Christian life. This is where we are encouraged to employ Christian meditation, which provides the incentive- hence strength – for the active side of Christianity. And for this you have to stop and *consider* the life of Christ in all its beauty and perfection.

## Bible themed verses- "Forgiveness"

"If my people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land." (1 Chronicles 7 v 14)

"Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered."  
(Psalm 32 v 1)

"As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us." (Psalm 103 v 12)

"I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; and I will not remember your sins." (Isaiah 43 v 25)

"For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." (Matthew 6 v 14- 15)

"And be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you." (Ephesians 4 v 32)

"Bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do." (Colossians 3 v 13)

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1 v 9)



## **Quotes/miscellaneous observations on life**

**It is a great deal better to live a holy life than to talk about it. Lighthouses do not ring bells and fire cannon to call attention to their shining- they just shine! (D L Moody)**

**Satan doesn't care what we worship, as long as we don't worship God.**

**(D L Moody)**

**Every true prayer is a variation on the theme "Thy will be done."**

**(John Stott)**

**Humility is to the Christian what ballast is to the ship; it keeps him in his proper position and regulates all his thoughts and feelings. (A Alexander)**

The world cannot bury Christ. The earth is not deep enough for His tomb, the clouds are not wide enough for His winding- sheet. (E Thomson)

When words become weapons, our relationships soon become casualties

Your influence on other people is positive or negative- never neutral.

Common sense is a flower that, sadly, doesn't grow in everyone's garden.

A punctual person is patient, because he gets that way waiting for those who are not punctual.

If he dodges cars he is a pedestrian; if he dodges taxes he is a financier; if he dodges responsibility he is a statesman!

A recession is a period when people do without the things their parents never had.

Live so that others will want to know Jesus.

## **How to handle a new Curate; ten tips.**

(This is most relevant as Darius joins us next month)

- **With care!** Put yourself in his or her shoes. Only a few days ago Curates were trying on their dog collars for the first time and probably feeling pretty self-conscious. They will be both excited and daunted at the prospect of putting “Rev” in front of their names.
- **With respect.** The new curate has been trained and set apart by ordination as a minister in the Church of God.
- **With prayer.** This is the secret ingredient and the most important. Give your curate a regular mention in your prayers, and tell them you’re doing so.
- **With humanity.** Clergy aren’t perfect. It’s an old joke but a good one, that if you don’t like the clergy you’ve got, remember there is only the laity to pick from.
- **With expectation.** As the curate climbs the pulpit steps, pray that God will take over and speak through him. This isn’t “Britain’s Got Talent,” so you are neither a judge nor a member of an audience. You are a disciple, eager to learn and, with God’s help, to change.
- **With generosity.** Find out if they can afford to make ends meet.
- **With understanding.** Curates have to continue their studies and that will include participating in diocesan training schemes. If married, they must also spend quality time with their families; they shouldn’t be working seven days a week.
- **With honesty.** If you want to criticise, make sure it’s constructive. Don’t try to wound or settle scores- have something positive to say at the same time.
- **With hospitality.** Invite them (and family) to a meal.
- **With humour; enough said!**



## The Organ Recital by Barney Powell

One of the great pitfalls of modern conversation, a yawning trap awaiting the unwary, is sprung by that most innocent and disinterested salutation: 'How are you?' Please to remember that this is not a question. Almost everyone will breezily inform you that they're fine, but there are those self-elected few who will be literally dying to tell you that they're not. They will have caught you like a spider in the web of their misery and will continue to ensnare you with the serum of their spell. They will tell you that they're beside themselves – their favourite position – and that only your indulgence will relieve them of their condition, if they may allow you the privilege of sharing it. Why should they regale us with a litany of lumps, while the rest of us have had so stoically to withstand the artillery of time? We have much the same set of gizzards and giblets as other higher primates; yet we never hear them bellyache about their indigestion or their dislocated hips.

But there is at least one effective antidote to such pusillanimous palaver: it is the firm resolve to reclaim so many household words usurped by all those afflicted by their egregious lapse into mental constipation. In this way, so many original names may enjoy a rightful restitution to their former glory, viz.,

Franjazipam: the scent of wild flowers as the most mind-altering substance.

Lanzoprazole: a delectable Italian dessert.

Diverticulitis: an irrepressible capacity to entertain and amuse.

Sciatica: a dreamy resort on the Adriatic Coast.

Covonia: an ancient province of the Roman Empire, famous for its congenial old coves.

Shingles: the memory of a childhood beach, redolent of gooseflesh and a twinkling of the toenails.

Plumbago: another lovely pudding.

Endupomide: a magic potion for the prevention of terminal sense of humour failure.

So many theologians have expatiated at length on the problem of pain from St. Thomas Aquinas to the sainted C.S. Lewis. One simple fact remains: all pain passes. Let us leave the last word to my mentor, Monsignor George Bernard Shaw:

"This is the true joy in life: being used for a purpose recognized by yourself as a mighty one, being a force of nature instead of a feverish, selfish little clod of ailments and grievances, complaining that the world will not devote itself to making you happy. I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the whole community and as long as I live, it is my privilege to do for it what I can. It is a sort of splendid torch which I have got hold of for the moment and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations."

**“About Prayer” (From the current quarterly magazine of the Carers Christian Fellowship- with their permission)**

**God welcomes us home**

**Home to serenity and peace and joy**

**Home to friendship and fellowship and openness**

**Home to intimacy and acceptance and affirmation**

**We do not need to be shy**

**He invites us into the living room of His heart-**

**Where we can put on old slippers and share freely**

**He invites us into the kitchen of His friendship-**

**Where chatter and batter mix in good fun**

**He invites us into the dining room of His strength-**

**Where we can feast to our heart's delight**

**He invites us into the study of His wisdom-**

**Where we can learn and grow and stretch**

**And ask all the questions we want**

**He invites us into the workshop of His creativity –**

**Where we can become co- labourers with Him**

**Working together to determine the outcome of events**

**The key to this home – this heart of God, is prayer-**

**And the door is Jesus Christ.**

**How good of God to provide us a way into His heart.**

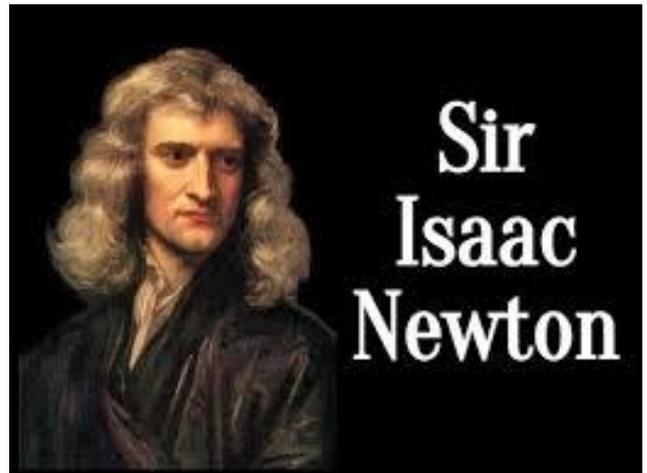
**We may now enter through the door of God's grace and mercy in  
Jesus Christ. (Richard Foster)**



## Famous scientists with a strong Christian faith Sir Isaac Newton

Sir Isaac Newton (25 December 1642 – 20 March 1727) was an English mathematician, astronomer, theologian, author and physicist (described in his own day as a "natural philosopher") who is widely recognised as one of the most influential scientists of all time, and a key figure in the scientific revolution. His book *Philosophiæ Naturalis Principia Mathematica* ("Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy"), first published in 1687, laid the foundations of classical mechanics. Newton also made path breaking contributions to optics, and he shares credit with Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz for developing the infinitesimal calculus.

Newton's *Principia* formulated the laws of motion and universal gravitation that dominated scientists' view of the physical universe for the next three centuries. By deriving Kepler's laws of planetary motion from his mathematical description of gravity, and using the same principles to



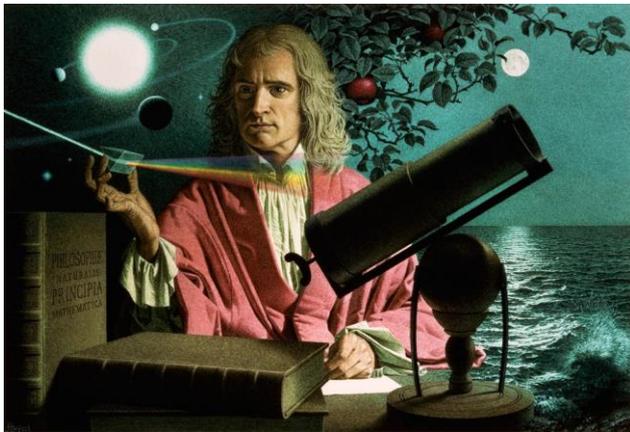
account for the trajectories of comets, the tides, the precession of the equinoxes, and other phenomena, Newton removed the last doubts about the validity of the heliocentric model of the Solar System and demonstrated that the motion of objects on Earth and of celestial bodies could be accounted for by the same principles. Newton's theoretical prediction that the Earth is shaped as an oblate spheroid was later vindicated by the geodetic measurements of Maupertuis, La Condamine, and others, thus convincing most Continental European scientists of the superiority of Newtonian mechanics over the earlier system of Descartes.

Newton also built the first practical reflecting telescope and developed a sophisticated theory of colour based on the observation that a prism decomposes white light into the colours of the visible spectrum. Newton's work on light was collected in his highly influential book *Opticks*, first published in 1704. He also formulated an empirical law of cooling, made the first theoretical calculation of the speed of sound, and introduced the notion of a Newtonian fluid. In addition to his work on calculus, as a mathematician Newton contributed to the study of power series, generalised the binomial theorem to non-integer exponents, developed a method for approximating the roots of a function, and classified most of the cubic plane curves.

Newton was a fellow of Trinity College and the second Lucasian Professor of Mathematics at the University of Cambridge. He was a devout but

unorthodox Christian who, unusually for a member of the Cambridge faculty of the day, refused to take holy orders in the Church of England. Beyond his work on the mathematical sciences, Newton dedicated much of his time to the study of alchemy and biblical chronology, but most of his work in those areas remained unpublished until long after his death. Politically and personally tied to the Whig party, Newton served two brief terms as Member of Parliament for the University of Cambridge, in 1689–90 and 1701–02. He was knighted by Queen Anne in 1705 and he spent the last three decades of his life in London, serving as Warden (1696–1700) and Master (1700–1727) of the Royal Mint, as well as president of the Royal Society (1703–1727).

His biographer, scientist Sir David Brewster, compiled his manuscripts for over 20 years, and wrote *Memoirs of the Life, Writings, and Discoveries of Sir Isaac Newton*, Brewster states that Newton was never known as an Arian during his lifetime, it was first William Whiston (an Arian) who argued



that "Sir Isaac Newton was so hearty for the Baptists, as well as for the Eusebians or Arians, that he sometimes suspected these two were the two witnesses in the Revelations," while other like Hopton Haynes (a Mint employee and Humanitarian), "mentioned to Richard Baron, that Newton held the same doctrine as himself".

Newton was also a member of the Parliament of England for Cambridge University in 1689–90 and 1701–2, but according to some accounts his only comments were to complain about a cold draught in the chamber and request that the window be closed. He was however noted by Cambridge diarist Abraham de la Pryme as having rebuked students who were frightening local residents by claiming that a house was haunted.

Newton died in his sleep in London on 20 March 1727 (His body was buried in Westminster Abbey). Voltaire may have been present at his funeral. A bachelor, he had divested much of his estate to relatives during his last years, and died intestate. His papers went to John Conduitt and Catherine Barton. After his death, Newton's hair was examined and found to contain mercury, probably resulting from his alchemical pursuits. Mercury poisoning could explain Newton's eccentricity in late life.

## Another reflection

**“In peace I will lie down and sleep for you alone, Lord, will keep me safe.” (Psalm 4 v 8)**

Have you ever lain through the small hours of the night, unable to sleep? I have, many times. The mind switches on and all my anxieties are heightened, causing me to experience stress. I can't find answers for this stream of anxieties which swamps me, although that doesn't stop me trying. The anxieties relate to my need to find solutions. These anxieties can be financial, work deadlines, relational difficulties, health worries- the field is infinite. What's more, the greater my level of anxiety, the less able I am to focus on God.

The critical fact is that I cannot resolve my own problems. Yes, I need to be active not passive, but my life is in fact in God's hands. I pray daily, “Thy kingdom done and Thy will be done.” Why is it that I lack confidence in my experience of God's provisions? I can only be safe to the degree to which I have established myself in God. The measure of that is the confident way I live my life when things go wrong. It's interesting that when anxious I cannot sleep, yet the antithesis presented by the psalmist is in having sufficient confidence in God that he can lie down and sleep.

Lying down is an expression of trust. It is a vulnerable, non- defensive stance. It is what I can do having completed my work and seeking rest. It's a metaphor for how we are to live in God, resting in God's promise of provision, even when that provision looks sparse. So at the close of the day, it's worth remembering that whatever the obstacles tomorrow presents, God has brought us to the close of today and we can entrust our tomorrow to Him.



(From Premier Christian Broadcasting “Voice of Hope” meditations)

## Local history – “Croydon’s health in the 1930’s” by Kenneth D James

### Background; Britain in the 1930’s

During this decade Britain was suffering from the effects of the World Economic Depression sparked off by the Wall Street Crash in October 1929. This impacted on a British economy already troubled by high levels of unemployment in the basic heavy industries: coal, iron and steel, shipbuilding and textiles. The result was an alarming surge in unemployment reaching 2.9 million in late 1932 and early 1933 or some 22% of those registered – the actual figure was probably considerably higher. The effect of these high rates of unemployment on the health of the nation were and are a matter of keen controversy. On the one hand the Government and its officials could point to an encouraging decrease in infant and maternal mortality, particularly after 1934, and reductions in deaths from a variety of infectious diseases. On the other hand, political and medical critics of the Governments of the day pointed to the survival of significant pockets of ill health and deprivation, particularly in inner-city slum districts and areas of high unemployment. It is against this sombre and controversial background that we must view the state of health in Croydon in the 1930’s.

### Croydon in the 1930’s

Croydon was fortunate in a number of ways. The town is situated ten miles south of London, well away from the stressed areas where unemployment remained stubbornly high. The official reports comment on the steady



increase in the town’s population from 233,115 at the 1931 Census to an estimated 243,900 in 1939 and suggest that, to some extent, this increase was explained by the drift of population to the favoured South East from the North and West during these years. Situated on the main road and railway between London and Brighton, the town was ideally placed as a dormitory for commuters to the City and West End and also as a location for industry. The traditional industries of engineering and bell- founding were added to in the 1930’s by factory development along Purley Way.

Apart from being an important commercial centre, Croydon became famous nationally as the headquarters of Imperial Airways and the possessor of the main commercial airport in the country. With a history going back a thousand years, Croydon, now a County Borough, had developed a strong

civic and community sense. This civic pride comes through strongly in the records of the time.

### Infant Mortality

This is officially defined as the number of deaths during the first year of life per thousand live births. It is generally agreed that it is a reliable and sensitive indicator of public health as it reflects not only the quality of medical and midwifery care received by mothers but also that of post-natal

Supervision and the environmental factors in which infants are brought up at the most vulnerable stage of their development. Croydon's figures fall well below the national average with the sole exception of the year 1937. This may be explained by the comparative prosperity of the town as evidenced by the comparatively low rate of unemployment, the comparatively good housing of the people, a healthy location near to the open spaces of the North Downs and the Kent and Sussex Weald, and a fairly comprehensive public health programme which appears, by the standards of the time, to have given good service to the community. It is notable that within Croydon, infant mortality was much lower in the more prosperous areas like East Croydon than in the poorer wards like Whitehorse Manor.

### Maternal Mortality

The number of deaths of mothers either in childbirth or as a direct result of it is another indicator of public health. This caused much anxiety nationally because governments were gravely concerned at the falling birth-rate in Britain during the 1920s and 1930s, and did not wish to discourage child-birth. This may also help to account for official hostility towards Marie Stopes and her birth control clinics. Furthermore, it was embarrassing to Ministers to see maternal mortality rising at a time when other public health indicators showed a favourable trend. There was a considerable improvement in midwifery services in Croydon in the late 1930's stemming partly from the Midwives Act of 1936 which required Local Authorities to provide trained personnel. A Superintendent and six midwives were then appointed and by 1938 the number of midwives had increased to ten.

(Kenneth took his degree in history at Balliol College Oxford, became a history teacher and was later deputy head at Archbishop Tenison's school, East Croydon. His daughter, Judith, gave me permission to print this article. There will be more extracts in the next two magazine issues)

## **“Seek to Glorify God”- “Word for Today” (United Christian Broadcasters)**

Bach composed 256 cantatas; *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring* may be his most famous. Nearly four centuries later, it's still one of the most popular soundtracks as the bride walks down the aisle to meet her groom. The reason his music touches your soul is because it came from his soul. But did you know his cantatas didn't originate as music, and that they were prayers before they were songs? Before he started scoring a sheet of music he would scrawl JJ- Jesu, Jeya- at the very top. It means "Jesus, help me." Then at the bottom of every composition he inscribed three letters: SDG. They stand for Soli, Deo Gloria- "to the glory of God alone. "His life was a unique translation of that singular motive. So is yours. No one can glorify God *like* you, or *for* you, because your life is an original score. *Soli Deo Gloria* is living for an audience of one; it's doing the right thing for the right reason. It's declaring that Jesus Christ is your all in all. Just Jesus. Nothing more, nothing less, nothing else.



The distinction between sacred and secular is a false dichotomy. All things were created *by* God and *for* God- no exceptions: every note of music, every colour on the palette, every flavour that tingles the taste buds. Arnold Summerfeld, the German physicist and pianist, observed that a single hydrogen atom which emits one hundred frequencies is more musical than a grand piano which emits only eighty-seven frequencies. So every single atom is a unique expression of worship. According to composer Leonard Bernstein, the best translation of Genesis 1 v 3 is not "And God said." He believed that a better translation is "And God sang." The Almighty sang every atom into existence and every atom echoes that original melody in three- part harmony by the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Super sensitive sound instruments have discovered that earthworms make faint staccato sounds, while whale songs can travel thousands of miles under water. Lewis Thomas put it this way; "if we had better hearing and could discern the descants of seabirds, the rhythmic timpani of schools of mullets, and even the distant harmonies of flies hanging over meadows in the sun, the combined sound might lift us off our feet." And some day they will. Glorifies eardrums will hear this Scripture fulfilled: "Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing, "To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise for ever and ever." (Revelation 5 v 13)

"Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy Him forever. It can't be said any simpler, or any better. We exist for one reason and one reason alone: to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever. And you are called to do that in whatever circumstance you find yourself.

## **British churches get to grips with the knife crime epidemic**

**This caught my eye in a recent copy of “The Times” and I thought you might be interested in this topical item which I’ve edited; for our prayers.**

**The Right Reverend Robert Wickham, Bishop of Edmonton, carries a piece of “street metal” close to his chest as he leads the Church of England’s response to knife crime. His cross is fashioned from melted knives handed in by youths in his diocese which covers four north London boroughs. As the rector of St John-at-Hackney until 2015, Wickham presided over many funerals of young people who died from knife wounds. After praying with grieving parents at “roadside memorials”, he instituted a knife bin in the church yard; so far more than 3000 weapons have been handed in.**



There have been 64 murders in London since the start of the year with 41 of the victims being fatally stabbed. Knife crime in London rose by 21% in 2017. As a result, the Metropolitan Police knife crime unit has welcomed the greater engagement of churches which, it says, provides “safe spaces for young people, places where they can go and talk to someone.”

Rev Wickham hopes that he is at the vanguard of a new proactive approach. Last month he was asked to chair a commission on behalf of Camden council on how to give a voice to those affected by the recent violence. The bishop attended a citizens’ assembly at St. Mary’s church in Primrose Hill, where eight young people from its youth project have been killed in the past 16 months. Some of the youths who spoke are resigned to the continuing violence around them. “I’m 16; it’s worrying but it’s normal,” said one. “If someone gets stabbed, you just have to move on; that’s how it is.”

Five years ago Stephen Addison was a member of a north London gang then had a “vision from God,” became a Christian and founded a virtual boxing gym. He goes into schools in Barking and Dagenham to train and mentor young people. He is expanding the project to Newham, Tower Hamlets, Isle of Dogs, Havering, Redbridge and Southwark. “The majority of the kids we help come from traumatised backgrounds,” he said. “Some of them are really challenging but we don’t drop anyone we think we can help.” The church’s project at the Bruce Grove youth centre at Haringey puts on cooking classes where young people from different gangs sometimes team up. It might sound like a recipe for disaster but it works. Some are more interested in cooking than others but they’re all interested in eating and we found that it breaks down barriers.”

## **Some suggestions for sharing Jesus with Muslims**

When I took my late daughter, Caroline, by minicab for regular radiotherapy treatment at The Royal Marsden Sutton (plus countless appointments at local and Central London hospitals), opportunities arose for discussing the Christian faith with the (mainly Muslim) drivers who often broached the subject. Jesus exhorts us to share our faith so you might be interested in this article (edited) taken from the current London City Mission quarterly magazine. The demography of Croydon- indeed, our Parish-has changed rapidly in the past few years presenting huge challenges for us.

### **See the opportunity**

- Instead of feeling uncomfortable about the presence of Muslims near us, we need to see it as a massive opportunity. For centuries, preaching the gospel in Islamic countries has been extremely difficult and dangerous. But Muslims have now come to us, and we can preach the gospel to them without fear of arrest.
- Think about where you see Muslims. If you're in a city, is your shopkeeper, taxi driver or neighbour Muslim? If you're in the country, maybe the kebab shop is run by Muslims?

### **Seize the opportunity**

Start a conversation with someone you think might be a Muslim by asking questions like:

- Have you always lived in the UK?" "Where else have you lived?"
- "When did you become a Muslim?"
- "What's the number one thing that convinces you that Islam is true?"
- "What's the number one thing that convinces you that Christianity isn't true?"
  - If you feel that such questions are overly direct and imposing, remember:
- Most Muslims are happy to talk about "religion." Unlike most Britons, it's something they do all the time- so they're actually the easiest people to talk to about God and faith.
- Most Muslims are confident and passionate about their beliefs, so they might interpret your reticent to talking about your faith as a lack of confidence and passion.

**"Always be ready to answer everyone who asks you to explain the hope you have, but answer in a gentle way and with respect."  
(1 Peter 3 v 15)**

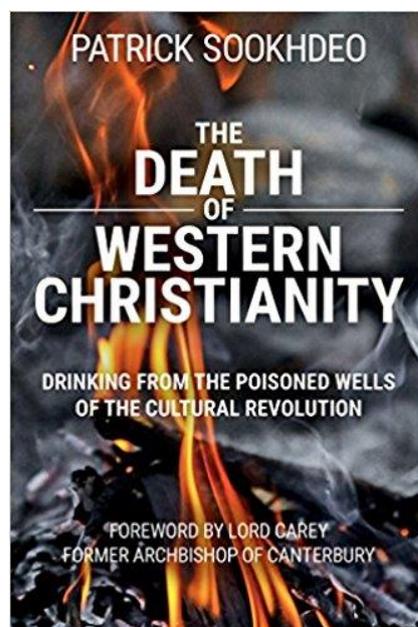
## Book review “The Death of Western Christianity” by Dr Patrick Sookhdeo

I read this book last September when it was published and have been re-reading a few chapters in recent weeks, such is the powerful impression it made. Some readers will recognise the author’s name as the founder of the Barnabas Fund.

Dr Sookhdeo contends that the Church in the West, from which a vast missionary movement once went out across the world, is now in a state of decline which could be terminal, unless God intervenes. Pockets of living, thriving Christian faith may give a sense of confidence to some, but overall the fire of Western faith is growing dim.

This book surveys the current state of Christianity in the West, looking in particular at how Western culture has influenced and weakened the Church especially during the past two decades. In one chapter he cites the many reasons why the church appears so impotent e.g. Pluralism, Post Modernism, Moral Relativism, Hedonism, and Consumerism, with a detailed historical analysis and perspective of each one. The author looks at how Christianity is increasingly under attack in Western society, becoming even more marginalised. Observe how the secular humanist agenda, evident in all strata of society, especially the media, is all-pervasive, insidious and delights in mocking once-cherished Judeo-Christian values. The author incorporates a very pertinent (and disturbing) chapter entitled, “Children, Family and Education” giving a forensic analysis of how un/ anti-Christian values are being promoted in the classroom and foisted on young, impressionable minds e.g. the current transgender issues.

Expressions of love and concern can now create real difficulties for Christians working in the public sector e.g. a high profile case of a nurse offering to pray for a patient, and an occupational therapist befriending a Muslim colleague, and giving her a Bible, resulted in the former being disciplined and the latter sacked. In this politically correct culture it is apparent that followers of Jesus are being increasingly vilified and often viewed with a mixture of irritation and suspicion. This is a prophetic book, not only for Christians in the West but also for Christians in the non-Western world. **It is an extremely well-researched and deeply uncomfortable read as it makes one realise that, in the days before Jesus’s return, Christians can expect that living out one’s faith will become increasingly difficult.**



## 8 GIFTS THAT DON'T COST A PENNY

### THE GIFT OF LISTENING

But you must REALLY listen. No interrupting, no daydreaming, no planning your response. Just listening.

### THE GIFT OF AFFECTION

Be generous with appropriate hugs, kisses, pats on the back and handholds. Let these small actions demonstrate the love you have for family and friends.

### THE GIFT OF LAUGHTER

Clip cartoons. Share articles and funny stories. Your gift will say, "I love to laugh with you".

### THE GIFT OF A WRITTEN NOTE

It can be a simple "Thanks for the help" note or a full sonnet. A brief, handwritten note may be remembered for a lifetime, and may even change a life.

### THE GIFT OF A COMPLIMENT

A simple and sincere, "You look great in red", "You did a super job" or "That was a wonderful meal" can make someone's day.

### THE GIFT OF A FAVOR

Every day, go out of your way to do something kind.

### THE GIFT OF SOLITUDE

There are times when we want nothing better than to be left alone. Be sensitive to those times and give the gift of solitude to others.

### THE GIFT OF A CHEERFUL DISPOSITION

The easiest way to feel good is to make others feel good.

### THE BEST GIFT OF ALL

Jesus!

**Don't leave things unsaid; there may not be a tomorrow.**

**What would you do?** This is a question in a Police Cadet final exam

You are on patrol when you hear the sound of a gas explosion in the next street. On arriving you find a large hole in the pavement, and a van on its side. As you go over to the van you notice a strong smell of alcohol, there are two people in the van, both injured, one of whom you recognise as the wife of your chief inspector who is currently away on a course. At that moment a motorist pulls up offering to help and you recognise him as a wanted criminal; at the same moment a man runs out from a nearby house shouting that his wife is pregnant and that the shock of the explosion has caused her to go into labour. A crowd is gathering round. This is followed almost immediately by a cry for help from a man who has fallen into the canal but who cannot swim. What do you do?

After a few moments thought the police cadet took his pen and wrote, "I would take off my uniform and mingle with the crowd!"

**Some go to church to talk a walk;**

**Some go there to laugh and talk;**

**Some go there to meet a friend;**

**Some go there, their time to spend;**

**Some go there to meet a lover;**

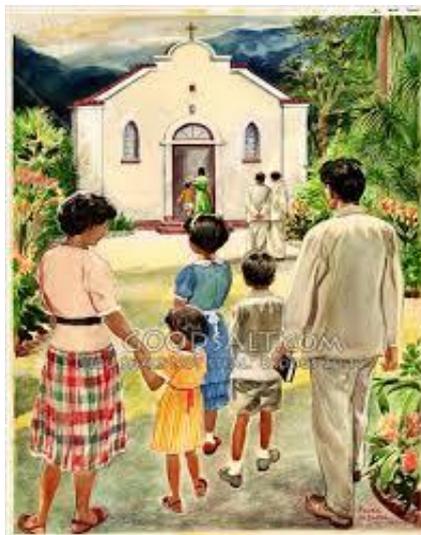
**Some go there, a fault to cover;**

**Some go there for speculation;**

**Some go there for observation;**

**Some go there to doze and nod;**

**The wise go there to worship God**



**The Parish Church of St Matthew, Croydon**  
(a member of Churches Together in Addiscombe)

<b>Church Address</b>	Chichester Road Croydon CR0 5NQ	8681 3147
<b>Parish Office Email</b>	churchadmin@stmatthew.org.uk	
<b>Website</b>	www.stmatthew.org.uk	
<b>Parish Administrator</b>	Terry Mitchell	8681 3147
<b>Hall Bookings</b>	Contact Parish Administrator	
<b>Vicar</b>	Revd Simon Foster revsimon@stmatthew.org.uk	8688 5055
<b>Readers</b>	Paul Parmenter Alison Radford	8689 5874
<b>Director of Music &amp; Choir</b>	Michael Strange	
<b>Southwark Pastoral</b>	Carolyn Tweed	
<b>Auxiliaries</b>	Sue Collins	
<b>Churchwardens</b>	Stephen Collingwood Rohini Abhayaratne	8686 2815
<b>PCC Secretary</b>	David Williams	8768 3599
<b>Treasurer</b>	Terry Mitchell	
<b>Gift Aid Recorder</b>	Terry Mitchell	
<b>Sacristan</b>	Gillian Bridger	
<b>Assistant Sacristan</b>	Jerry Savage	
<b>Electoral Roll Officer</b>	David Williams	
<b>Magazine Editor</b>	Steve Tucker stephen.tucker123@btinternet.com	8681 6872

**Parish Committees and Organisations**

<b>Young Church (Sunday 10am)</b>	Judith Spencer-Gregson	8688 6640
<b>Fundraising Team</b>	Jane Passfield	
<b>Fellowship Team</b>	Lucasta Grayson	
<b>Communications Team</b>	Alison Radford	
<b>Fabric Team</b>	Chris Grayson	
<b>Finance Team</b>	Richard Tweed	
<b>Pastoral Team</b>	Revd Simon Foster	
<b>Circle Dance</b>	Sally Ditzel Sallyditzel1960@gmail.com	07568338204

**Youth Groups and Clubs**

<b>Rainbow Guides (Wednesday 6.10-7.30)</b>	Zoë Sheehan	07855 779458
<b>Brownies (Wednesday 6.30-8.00pm)</b>	Laura Easton	
<b>Ten O'Clock Club (Tuesday 10-12noon)</b>		
<b>Cubs (Tuesday 7-8.30pm)</b>	Michael Smaldon	
<b>Scouts (Tuesday 7.30-9.00pm)</b>	Chris louannou	07729 303130
<b>Guides (Wednesday 6.45-8.30pm)</b>	Zoë Sheehan	07855 779458
<b>Beavers (Friday 6-7.15pm)</b>	Tracey Hague	

**For details of other activities taking place at church during the week that include Pilates, Bach Choir, Philharmonic Choir, Breathe Easy, Children's Ballet, Children's Drama and U3A Groups. Please contact the organisers direct. Details from the Parish Office which is usually open Monday to Thursday 9.30am - 12.30pm.**