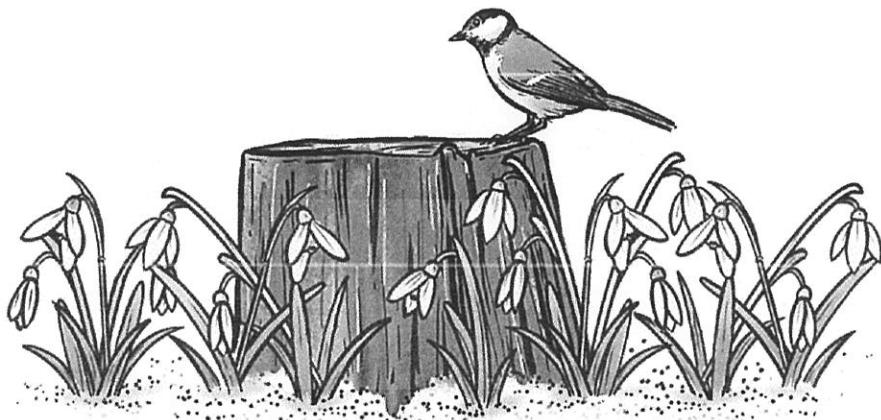




# Open Door

**The Newsletter of  
Old Coulsdon Congregational Church**

**FEBRUARY 2023**



**Affiliated to the Congregational Federation  
A Member of Churches Together in Coulsdon**

**Price £1.80**

# Welcome to OLD COULSDON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Coulsdon Road, Old Coulsdon, Surrey, CR5 1EH

This community Church was formed in 1953 and has been on its present site since 1958. We hope you will enjoy visiting and sharing worship with us. Please make yourself known to the Minister, one of the Deacons, or a Steward, if you have any questions or queries.

## Church Officers

<b>Minister</b>	Pastor Malcolm R. Newman 82 Court Avenue Old Coulsdon, Surrey, CR5 1HE Tel: 01737 554362 or 07713 248704 email: <a href="mailto:pastormalcolm@btinternet.com">pastormalcolm@btinternet.com</a>
<b>Please note:</b>	<b>Tuesday is the Minister's day off-duty</b>
<b>Administrator</b>	Heather Jones 32 Tollers Lane Old Coulsdon, Surrey, CR5 1BB Tel: 020 8406 0164 or 07788 418591 email: <a href="mailto:jones.heather47@gmail.com">jones.heather47@gmail.com</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Nigel Spencer 142 Coulsdon Road Old Coulsdon, Surrey, CR5 2LE Tel: 020 8660 2959 Mobile 07800 699553 email: <a href="mailto:nige.spencer61@gmail.com">nige.spencer61@gmail.com</a>
<b>Halls Manager</b>	Cathy Spencer 142 Coulsdon Road, Old Coulsdon, CR5 2LE To hire the Cameron Hall or Heath Room Tel: 0208 660 2959 Mobile: 07722 565433 email: <a href="mailto:bookingsoccc@gmail.com">bookingsoccc@gmail.com</a>

Please see inside back cover for list of  
Church organisations and contacts.

## FROM THE MINISTER:



Dear Friends

With the coming of a new year, my thoughts have very much focused on the immense pressures our system of care is under, especially the NHS and Social care.

In Matthew 25 Jesus says, in essence, when we help, when we look after, when we care .... for others, we are caring in God's name. On the other hand, if we ignore, walk by on the other side, look after only ourselves .... We, as Christians, are neglecting in God's name.

I have for a long time been the advocate of a system where all social care is brought in under the umbrella of an NHS that does a holistic approach.

In that way there are resources and planning in place which does away with the current system. A system which is a postcode lottery of local government resources and means a constant battle with so many hospital beds tied up with those who should not be in hospital but for whom there is no safe place to go.

**This is not politics, this is not partisanship, this IS the simple right for folk, especially the vulnerable, to be treated with care and dignity.**

**The Archbishop's Commission on social care, just published, makes hard but essential reading on this matter. It avoids wisely on how any new system is to be funded. If we are to be a caring and loving society then surely if that means paying more tax, we should do just that.**

**So many crying out that 'something must be done'. For Christians the message is clear and unequivocal – again I refer to Matthew Chapter 25. If we do it the least of these brothers of mine....**

**The need for reform, and love, and proper care is there. The time to act, is now, before society really hangs its head in shame.**

**Grace and Peace**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Malcolm" or a similar name, is crossed out with a large, thin black X.

**Pastor Malcolm**

## **NOTES FROM THE MINISTER:**

### **CONCERT BY THE CROYDON MALE VOICE**

**CHOIR: Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February**

**A reminder that the Croydon Male Voice Choir is returning to our church for a concert on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm.**

**Tickets are £15pp available on the door or in advance from me.**

**The price includes refreshments in the interval.**

**All welcome – please come and enjoy a great evening from a renowned Choir!**

### **ASH WEDNESDAY:**

**22<sup>nd</sup> February Prayers at 11am**

**Our preparations for Lent begin on Ash Wednesday with Prayers in the Church at 11am.**

**All are welcome.**

**Coffee Pot/Warm Space will be running as usual in the Heath Room from 10.30am.**

**ADVANCE DATE:  
AFTERNOON QUIZ AND TEA – 18<sup>th</sup> March**

**Something new - a Quiz in the afternoon with tea, on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March in the Cameron Hall.**

**Doors open at 1.30pm**

**Quiz starts at 2pm with a break for tea at 3pm.  
Tea will be: Tea and Coffee, Sandwiches and Cakes.**

**The cost will be £5 per person**

**Forms will be coming out shortly.  
Teams, couples and individuals welcome – forms and monies to me please  
by the date on the form.**

**PLEASE NOTE:**

**In order to prepare tables, seating, and catering, places will not be available on the day of the Quiz.**

**Advance Booking, as with the evening Quizzes, is essential.**

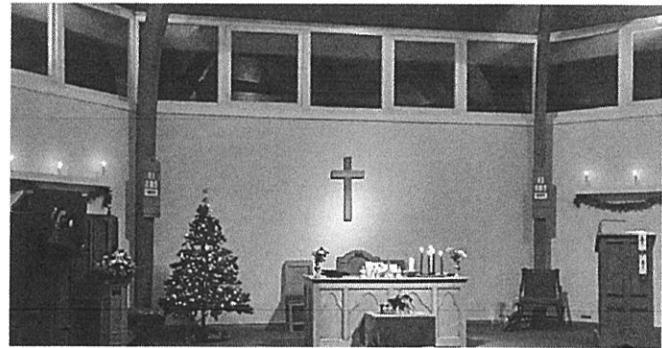
**Many thanks, and look forward to seeing you.**

*Malcolm*

## **DECEMBER 2022**

Due to the very cold and snowy weather, many of our events had to be cancelled or curtailed. However, the Informal Carols did go ahead, and about 30 people came.

The Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, at 6.30 went well – a good number of people attended, and the festive refreshments in the Cameron Hall were most enjoyable.



Here's the church on that day – beautifully lit and arranged. (Photograph by Hamish).

---

The Christmas December Friendship Club event was postponed until January 11<sup>th</sup>, and we all had a good time.

Audrey Stephens welcomed everyone, and handed out the programme for 2023.

Our Malcolm had arranged a quiz, which was excellent. There were three sections:

- Questions on the life and times of Queen Elizabeth II, where we wrote our answers. (We did fairly well).
- An item about fruit and vegetables – we just had to put hands up to show we knew, or thought we knew, the answers. (This was harder – we failed on several).
- And a sheet of pictures of various dogs – write the name of the breed. (Not as easy as we'd thought).

Thank you Malcolm, and thank you to Audrey and team for the excellent tea.

The next meeting is on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February.

# THE EVERLASTING LIGHT

by Evelyn Wooden

My small Nativity figures - set out within a "shed" - have a small reading light to illuminate the centre where the baby lies.

On Christmas Eve, in the evening, I put this light on and decided to leave it on overnight - expecting the old battery to expire before morning.

Coming into my dark lounge on Christmas morning, I was thrilled to find the illumination making the only light in the room, and made the Nativity tableau truly beautiful and very moving.

I then left it on - and on -and on, and even today - Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> December - that light is still shining on my "Baby Jesus and parents".

It is fading a little but seems as if it is taking power from our Everlasting Light - Jesus!.



## **SNOWDROPS IN FEBRUARY**

The snowdrop appears in February, and is a symbol of hope. According to legend, the snowdrop became this when Adam and Eve were expelled from the Garden of Eden.

When Eve was about to give up hope that the cold winters would never end, an angel appeared. She transformed some of the snowflakes into snowdrop flowers, proving that winters do eventually give way to the spring.

---

## **PUSSY WILLOW**

### **The First Flowers of Spring**



At the tail end of winter, fuzzy nubs start to appear along the branches of pussy willow trees. These soft silver tufts—as well as the plant itself—are named for their resemblance to tiny cats' paws, and they feel so much like fur that young children often wonder if they are animals instead of plants.

Another legend: kittens of a mother cat fell into the river. As they floated off, the cat ran along the bank mewing so plaintively that the willow trees bending over the water took pity and leaned their branches low, so that the kittens could climb to safety. Ever since, we have had these beautiful pussy willows every spring. Just a story - but the soft grey buds do feel very like a cat's fur.

The buds are actually flowers just before they fully bloom. The soft coating of hairs acts as insulation to protect these early bloomers from cold temperatures. As the season progresses, the female flowers develop into tiny seedpods, while the male flowers turn into fluffy clusters of pollen. Later in the season, the willow's leaves will emerge, and the plant will be covered in a sea of green.

## **TERRA-CYCLE UPDATE -SPRING 2023**

**Thank you for being patient while we decided how best to collect our Terra-cycling without our local drop-off point.**

**We will have labelled boxes out in the Heath room at coffee mornings with information of what items can be put in each box.**

**We will collect :**

- crisp packets (any brand)
- Biscuit and cake packets (any brand)
- Sweet wrappers (any brand)
- Plastic bread bags (any brand)
- Cheese packets (any brand)

***\*blister packs\* please take these to Superdrug (but the Caterham Valley Branch does not take them) if you are able – otherwise we will take them for you.***

**Please do not put dirty or sticky items in the boxes, and empty crumbs to avoid mess on the carpet**

**Remember that anything you can recycle at home is not suitable – please put in your recycle bins at home.**

**Soft plastic bags are also not suitable – please take to your supermarket.**

**Thank you for your help.**

***Cathy Spencer***



### **Painting for Pleasure - ANNUAL ART EXHIBITION**

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2023, 9.30am - 4.00pm**

**In the Guide Hall, Tudor Parade, Old Coulsdon  
(Entrance via path alongside Dormer Lodge)**

**Admission Free – Refreshments available**

**Come and see the work of local artists**

***Sarah Davis***



**begins on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February  
and ends on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April**

**The day before Lent starts, we have Shrove Tuesday - 21<sup>st</sup> February ie Pancake Day.**

**The tradition dates back to Anglo-Saxon times, when Christians spent Lent in repentance and severe fasting.**

**On this day, the church bell would summon them to confession, where they would be 'shriven', or absolved from their sins, which gives us *Shrove* Tuesday. At home, they would then eat up their last eggs and fat, and making a pancake was the easiest way to do this. For the next 47 days, they pretty well starved themselves.**

**Pancakes feature in cookery books as far back as 1439, and today's pancake races are in remembrance of a panicked woman back in 1445 in Olney, Buckinghamshire. She was making pancakes when she heard the shriving bell calling her to confession.**

**Afraid she'd be late, she ran to the church in a panic, still in her apron, and still holding the pan.**

**Some people have noted that the ingredients of pancakes can be used to highlight four significant things about this time of year: eggs stand for creation, flour is the staff of life, while salt keeps things wholesome, and milk stands for purity.**

**Shrove Tuesday is always 47 days before Easter Sunday.**



The word Lent traces back to an old Germanic word for 'long'. Originally Lent was a time of discipline to prepare for Easter, dedicated to reflection and repentance. It is a time of giving things up – one way of remembering the time Jesus fasted in the desert and is a test of self-discipline. Some of us just give up something they really enjoy, such as cakes or chocolate. And make a donation of what we would have spent.

However, we could consider 'Taking Up' instead.

There are many things we could do – for example:

- Contribute more to a food bank.  
(There is a great need at the moment).
- Donate small amounts to a different charity each week – charities are now struggling.
- Write a letter to friends and family.
- Phone instead of texting.

(These last two would mean so much to some people).

---

With the above in mind, OCCC always contribute to WaterAid during Lent. The Coin Jars will soon re-appear!

Each time we have a drink, made with clean water, think of the countries where water is not available. So, at our coffee sessions, please donate your small change. This soon mounts up, and by Easter there is always a good amount to send. (I arrange this for us).

We will have seen the heart-rending television items, of children spending most of their time walking in the heat to collect water, which is dirty and germ-laden. WaterAid specialise in digging wells for villages, and clean plentiful water results. Therefore everyone is healthy, and the children are able to go to school.

*Thank you - Barbara*

## NOTES FROM HEATHER

OCCC now has a card reader. If anyone wants to make a payment to the church by card, please see me.



~~~~~

Also, as most of you know, we now have a Warm Space hub in the Heath Room on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 10.30 am to approx. 3 pm. All welcome for a friendly chat in the warmth, with some food for lunch. Volunteers and contributions would also be helpful. *Heather Jones*

**Q - What do an aeroplane, a bicycle and a church have in common?**

**A - If any of them stop moving forward, you're in trouble!**

\*\*\*\*\*

## A GOOD EXCUSE?

A father had asked his son to paint a fence. When asked why he had failed to do it, the lad replied, "Well, I would have, but I couldn't find the axe!"

"What's the axe got to do with it?" his father retorted.

"Nothing. But when you don't want to do something, one excuse is just as good as another!"

\*\*\*\*\*



## **THE LORD'S PRAYER – AN UNUSUAL VERSION**

O Breathing Life, Your name shines everywhere!

Release a space to plant Your presence here.

Envision Your “I can” now.

Embody Your desire in every light and form.

Grow through us this moment's bread and wisdom.

Untie the knots of failure binding us.

As we release the strands we hold of others' faults.

Help us not to forget our source

Yet free us from not being in the present.

From You arises every vision, power and song from  
gathering to gathering.

**Amen**

(It may seem a little quirky, but it says it all.     Barbara)

~~~~~

We say 'Amen' – almost automatically - at the end of our prayers. The use of "amen" has been generally adopted in our worship as a concluding word and as an expression of strong agreement.

The basic meaning of the Semitic root from which it is derived is “firm,” “fixed,” or “sure,” and the related Hebrew verb also means “to be reliable” and “to be trusted.” The Greek Old Testament usually translates amen as “so be it”; in the English Bible it has frequently been rendered as “verily,” or “truly.”

## **ST SIGFRID, APOSTLE OF SWEDEN**

If you have something big to forgive, Sigfrid may be the saint for you. This monk from Glastonbury was sent by King Ethelred to Norway and Sweden in 995. The King of Norway, King Olaf, had recently converted to Christianity, and wanted help in converting his people.

Sigfrid went first to Vaxjo in Sweden, taking along his three nephews. There he built a small church, commissioned it, and consecrated his nephews as bishops. Then Sigfrid left them, in order to evangelise the more remote regions.

So far so good, but when Sigfrid returned, he found the church had been burned to the ground and his nephews murdered. The attackers had been caught, and the king was about to put them to death. It would be an act of justice.

Instead, Sigfrid pleaded with the king for mercy. It was agreed that a large fine should be paid to Sigfrid. He did not keep a penny for himself, but used it to rebuild the church, and continue the mission. Sigfrid went on to minister in Sweden, Norway and Denmark for many years, until his death in 1045.

He was remembered with love and credited with many miracles.

## **HONESTY**

A boy and a girl were playing together. The boy had a collection of beautiful marbles, and the girl had some sweets with her. The boy offered to give the girl all his marbles in exchange for all her sweets, and she agreed.

However, the boy gave most of the marbles to the girl but secretly kept the biggest and most beautiful for himself.

The girl gave him all her sweets as she'd promised.

That night the girl slept peacefully, but the boy couldn't sleep as he kept wondering if the girl had hidden some of the best sweets from him.

**If you don't give your hundred percent in a relationship, you'll always wonder if the other person has given their hundred percent.**

---



*Quote from Ralph Waldo Emerson - American philosopher*

**The louder he talked of his honour,  
the faster we counted our spoons!**



# The Leprosy Mission

OCCC has received the following letter from The Leprosy Mission – to all the supporters.

‘Thank you so much for collecting stamps to raise funds for people affected by leprosy. I know that you have spent precious time collecting, cutting and meticulously trimming with great care. Over the years you have raised thousands of pounds and transformed lives across Africa and Asia – all with stamps! It’s been a joy to receive bags and parcels at the office, all packed and posted with love.

In the past couple of years, the value of stamps has greatly reduced. Now that bar-coded stamps have been introduced, stamp value has been further decreased. Sadly, it has got to the point where there is not really enough money to be made in this area. So it is with regret that we have made the tough decision to wind down stamps and collectibles in line with many other charities this year. We’ll continue to accept your collections until March 31<sup>st</sup> 2023.

Peter Waddup – Chief Executive’.

My own thanks to all who have donated stamps etc over the years. Please collect up all your Christmas card stamps this year and that will be our last batch!!

Evelyn Wooden, TLM Representative

*And, a big thank you to Evelyn for all her work in dealing with the many stamps that we have given to her. Barbara*

## WORDSEARCH NOTES

### The Presentation of Christ in the Temple/Candlemas

**In bygone centuries, Christians said their last farewells to the Christmas season on Candlemas, 2 February. This is exactly 40 days after Christmas Day itself.**

**In New Testament times 40 days old was an important age for a baby boy: it was when they made their first 'public appearance'.**

**Mary, like all good Jewish mothers, went to the Temple with Jesus, her first male child - to 'present him to the Lord'. At the same time, she, as a new mother, was 'purified'. Thus we have the Festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple.**



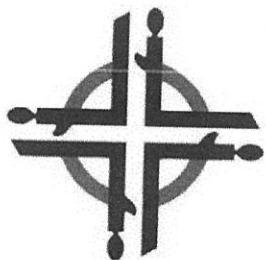
**So where does the Candlemas bit come in? Jesus is described in the New Testament as the Light of the World, and early Christians developed the tradition of lighting many candles in celebration of this day. The Church also fell into the custom of blessing the year's supply of candles for the church on this day - hence the name, Candlemas.**

**The story of how Candlemas began can be found in Luke 2:22-40.**

## **WORD SEARCH FOR FEBRUARY**



FORTY	TEMPLE	CANDLEMAS
DAYS	JESUS	SIMEON
BABY	PURIFIED	NUNC
BOY	PRESENT	DIMITTIS
PUBLIC	LORD	OFFICE
APPEARANCE	FESTIVAL	EVENING
MARY	PRESENTATION	PRAYER
JEWISH	LIGHT	WEST
MOTHERS	WORLD	



## THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2023

Each year we invite you to join us to pray for the world and in particular for a country which has written the service. However, the Order of Service booklet contains many details about the writing country, including history, geography, flora and fauna and other basic facts.

This year's writing country is Taiwan, which is constantly in the news now, but it's encouraging to know that there are many Christian women who are waiting for our prayers. The subject for the service, which was given to them over 3 years ago, is 'I have heard about your faith'. If they have heard of our faith it would be very disappointing if we didn't bother to support them on this one day in the year and, having done so, on many other days too.

Why not join us on Friday 3 March at 10.30am at Coulsdon Methodist Church and stay for refreshments and fellowship with members of other local churches.

This is a service traditionally written by women but everyone is invited to pray for, and with Taiwanese Christians.

Your local committee

## CHURCH DIARY – FEBRUARY 2023

Coffee Pot Wednesdays and Saturdays – 10.30am – 12.00pm

Sunday	5 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Morning Service
Monday	6 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Bible Study
Wednesday	8 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	Community Friendship Club
Saturday	11 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	CONCERT IN CHURCH CROYDON MALE VOICE CHOIR
Sunday	12 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Morning Service including Holy Communion
Monday	13 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Bible Study
Friday	17 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Film Club
Sunday	19 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Morning Service
Monday	20 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Bible Study

Wednesday	22 <sup>nd</sup>	11.00am	<b>ASH WEDNESDAY:</b> Prayers for Lent
Sunday	26 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	<b>Morning Service (First of Lent)</b>
Monday	27 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Bible Study

### **ADVANCE DATES FOR MARCH**

Friday	3 <sup>rd</sup>	10.30am	<b>WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE</b> In Coulsdon Methodist Church
Saturday	18 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	<b>AFTERNOON QUIZ AND TEA</b> Cameron Hall

**GOD LOVES YOU AND IS ALWAYS WITH YOU – AMEN**

## **Who's Who in Old Coulsdon Congregational Church**

**The Diaconate:** **Minister, Church Administrator, Church Treasurer, Halls Manager and Deacons:**

Jan Edwards 01737 554624  
Terry Edwards 01737 554624  
Brian French 01737 557447  
Audrey Stephens 01883 344863  
Sarah Davis (Co-opted)  
Hamish Robertson (Co-opted)  
Pat Robertson (Co-opted)

**Life Deacons:** **Heather Jones, John Harwood  
Judy Earl, John Hughes**

### **Contacts and Organisations:**

**Church Premises/Church Office** 01737 552303

**Pastoral Care Co-ordinator:** Pat Robertson 0208 660 0792

**Leprosy Mission:** Evelyn Wooden 01737 552456

**South East Area Representative:** Contact the Minister 01737 554362  
for Federation Information

**Bible Fellowship Group:** Minister 01737 554362

**Community Friendship Club:** Audrey Stephens 01883 344863

### **Magazine Team:**

**Editor:** Barbara Ann Brown 01737 552045  
83 Chaldon Way  
Old Coulsdon, Surrey, CR5 1DN  
email: brownba1947@gmail.com

**Business Manager:** Evelyn Wooden 01737 552456

**Proof Reader:** Evelyn Wooden 01737 552456

**Copy for the March/April 2023 issue  
must reach Barbara by  
Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

**OLD COULSDON  
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

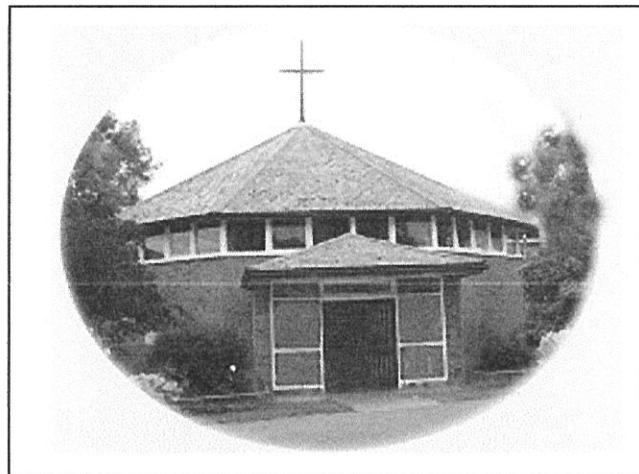
**Formed in 1953 and on the present site since 1958**

**GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY YEAR 2003**

**DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY YEAR 2013  
of the formation of the Church**

**DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY YEAR 2018  
of the Opening of the Church Building**

**Over 70 YEARS OF SERVICE  
1953 - 2023**



- \* **A Christian Church**
- \* **A Caring Church**
- \* **A Community Church**

**Our Mission Is  
To Share Christ's love with the Community**