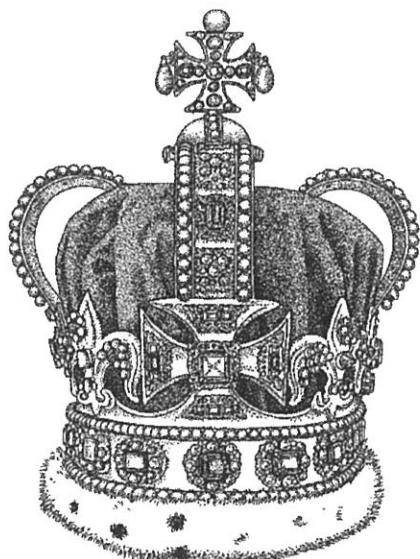




Open Door

**The Newsletter of
Old Coulsdon Congregational Church**

MAY 2023



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

Price £1.80

Welcome to OLD COULSDON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
Coulson Road, Old Coulsdon, Surrey, CR5 1EH
(www.occc.coulsdon.net)

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

Minister Pastor Malcolm R. Newman
 82 Court Avenue
 Old Coulsdon, Surrey, CR5 1HE
 Tel: 01737 554362 or 07713 248704
 email: pastormalcolm@btinternet.com

Please note: **Tuesday is the Minister's day off-duty**

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

FROM THE MINISTER:



Dear Friends

May this year encompasses not only the festival of Pentecost and Christian Aid Week but of course, on May 6th, HM King Charles III is crowned at Westminster Abbey, the first coronation ceremony for 70 years.

As this country and indeed the commonwealth and world adjust to this momentous change, we are reminded of the same life/world changing moment when, in Act Chapter 2, we read of the 'tongues of fire', the 'rushing wind', the very presence of God empowering the Disciples with the Holy Spirit. This act is the catalyst that will give birth to the Church and usher in an ongoing discipleship and work that has lasted 2,000 years.

The disciples had to adjust – big time! As did the world.

It is so abundantly clear to me, when I have been praying and preparing services and sermons, that the teachings of Christ, the message of the gospels, the missionary journeys of Paul and others are SO relevant

and have much to say to the disciples of Christ and the world in 2023.

Perhaps that relevance is highlighted and brought home to us this month with Christian Aid Week. We are holding our traditional soup lunch on May 13th after Church Meeting.

Part of the Service on May 14th will focus on the ongoing work of Christian Aid and its theme for this year.

The work of and for the Lord never ceases. It keeps going. Generation after generation have laboured and then passed on the baton of light, truth and faith.

May God give us all the strength to continue His work on earth, to renew ourselves each Pentecost -and then give us eternal rest in his presence.

Grace and Peace

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Malcolm".

Pastor Malcolm

NOTES FROM THE MINISTER:

CHURCH MEETING and CHRISTIAN AID SOUP LUNCH:
Saturday 13th May.

Friends, our next Church Meeting is on Saturday 13th May at 10.30am in the Church. Coffee and Tea available in the Heath Room from 10am.

After Church Meeting, we have the annual Christian Aid Soup Lunch in The Cameron Hall from 12noon – 1.30pm. All welcome. All donations will go to Christian Aid.

FILM CLUB AND AGM: Friday 19th May

A reminder to all Film Club Members that the Club AGM and showing will be on Friday 19th May 7 for 7.30pm. The Film will be the animation classic, Wallace and Gromit and the curse of The Were-Rabbit!

NOTE: Due to movement in the community and bereavements, there are some Memberships available for the Film Club. If you, or any of your friends who live in the area, are interested in joining please contact Peter Gillman [Membership Secretary] on 01737 552040.

TERRACYCLING COLLECTION

This cannot take place on the first Saturday of the month for the next few months. The collections will be made during Saturday Coffee Mornings on:

20th May, 10th June, 8th July and 5th August.

MALCOLM HAS BEEN OUR MINISTER FOR 13 YEARS!

On Sunday 2nd April, at our after-church fellowship gathering, we celebrated with bubbly. It was a time to reminisce – and remember everything he has done for us. Sarah Davis gave a mini speech on our behalf.

THE CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III

On 6th May His Majesty King Charles III will be crowned, and then in a similar but simpler ceremony at the same service, Queen Camilla will also be crowned.

The Coronation is based on a solemn religious ceremony which has remained largely unchanged for more than 1000 years. For the past 900 years, the ceremony has taken place at Westminster Abbey, and is conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

A Prayer for the new King:

Everlasting God, we pray for our new King. Bless his reign and the life of our nation. Help us to work together so that truth and justice, harmony and fairness flourish among us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The last Coronation was that of Queen Elizabeth II – an amazing 70 years ago, in June 1953!



Charles was four years old, and became the first child to witness his mother's Coronation.

A reminder re Used Stamps. Please continue to save them – the Cats' Protection can make good use of them. (I've checked!). There will be a box in the vestibule, or give them to me. *Barbara*

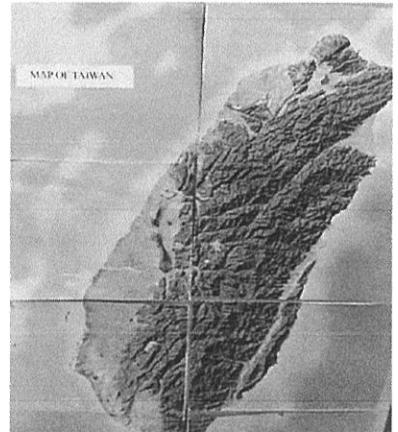
WORLD DAY OF PRAYER – 3rd MARCH 2023

“I HAVE HEARD ABOUT YOUR FAITH”

This year's service took place at Coulsdon Methodist Church, and was prepared by the WDP Committee of Taiwan.

Taiwan has for many years been caught in a superpower struggle against China. The service offered prayers and encouragement for women who face suffering and injustice. Since the 16th century Taiwan has also been colonised by different foreign forces and the people have experienced conflict.

Our Anthea Fox and Vivian Job took part in the service. During the singing of first hymn five women walked towards the Taiwan map, each carrying a piece of the puzzle to complete the map.



The service was based on prayers from women of the country, asking for strength and wisdom to cope with an uncertain future. “I have heard about your faith”.

Here's the notice board depicting the agriculture and culture of the country. (Photographs by Vivian Job).

The service was most enjoyable and very well attended.



ART EXHIBITION SATURDAY 11th MARCH

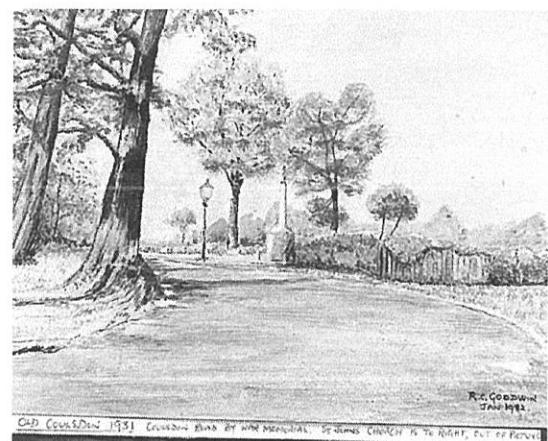
The Painting for Pleasure Annual Art Exhibition took place in the Guide Hall. As usual, there was a variety of many excellent paintings. The event was very well attended, and good refreshments were available.

It was difficult to choose favourites, but here are some that were particularly appealing. Unfortunately they cannot be shown in colour.



Tropical Forest Pool
by Sarah Davis. The
contrast of the still trees
and rushing water is most
appealing.

Right: Kingfisher, by
Diane Davis. Sadly not for sale.



Old Coulsdon 1931
by R E Goodman



The Guide Hall was buzzing with visitors, and people were greeting each other and chatting with those they'd not seen for a while. – It was also an excellent social event!

QUIZ AFTERNOON – Saturday 18th March

The first afternoon Quiz was a great success. Malcolm was of course Question Master, and Brian French our scorer.



After a few rounds, there was a tea break – sandwiches, lovely little cakes and tea – beautifully served in pretty china. Thanks to Jan, Pat, Anthea, Terry and Graham for the catering.



**The winning team
OCCC**



**And The Godbotherers
were second**



This beautiful bench has been produced in memory of Joan Dixon. Joan was the President of the Friendship Club, and also the Flower Club. Flower arrangement by Audrey Stephens.

LEPROSY MISSION TALK AND UPDATE

On March 26th, we were very pleased to welcome Ian and Pauline Jepps again of The Leprosy Mission. We were given an interesting update of the TLM work, and also some new information.



The new laboratory at Anandaban, Nepal is progressing well. Emphasis these days is on education and rehabilitation – we heard the story of Shakti, who had to have her lower leg amputated, but now has a new prosthetic limb, and can continue studying. Also, Nagajo, who has become an electrician.

The stigma does remain, but an understanding is becoming known, that people have been cured.



Another source of employment is the tea gardens of Bangladesh. The rich green tea leaves are handpicked, mainly by women. This is Aloka, whose leprosy was cured, so she can continue to work and support her family. Sadly, if leprosy is untreated, their hands may become useless, and the income is lost. TLM does a great deal to prevent deterioration.

Pam Rhodes, Songs of Praise presenter, is the TLM Vice President. She visited the tea gardens, and saw the beautiful foliage being carefully collected.

Pam has done so much to raise awareness of this work.



Thank you so much Ian and Pauline.

TWO WALKS – By Evelyn Wooden

On Easter Saturday I took my scooter to the end of Happy Valley in Chaldon Way.

I was then able to walk along Happy Valley for the first time in many months. I can no longer manage the steep slope to the valley, as my knees are now too stiff and painful.



As I entered the valley, in the first yards I could see many clumps of beautiful fresh primroses in bloom. A promise of spring really on the way.

I joined the old familiar path through the woods which led me to see if the “old log” – now approaching 60 years of useful service - had decayed. I was amused to see that the small tree growing up behind the log has reached out a limb to embrace it, as though it would help it to stay together!

My old friend the chestnut tree still stands firmly on her steep bank and had clearly had a good crop of chestnuts (conkers) last autumn. I picked up one which had put out a small root and have planted it in a vain half-hope it may grow a tree for me!!

My second walk, maybe 9-10 days later, was simply along the top of the valley. I was delighted to see how spring had advanced since my Easter walk. The blackthorn was just breaking into its lovely white blossom and the old wild cherry trees were covered in beautiful pink blooms. A hawthorn had its early leaves and flower buds.

Towards the end of my trail I saw a spread of just opening cowslips and violets still in great abundance and a few primroses too.

Up the difficult steep steps and into the woods that led back home. At the very entry on to the path I spied a wood anemone in beautiful full flowering. As I stepped up the first yards of the path I was bemused to find on all sides blue bells in bloom. It seems too early! It was however wonderful to see them spreading throughout the woods, escorting me home.

I feel I had been given a glimpse of life starting up again!

Thanks be to God!

Evelyn

FRIENDSHIP CLUB – 12 APRIL 2023

In spite of the inclement weather I was pleased to welcome 21 to our meeting. Malcolm gave us a very interesting talk on the painting by Albrecht Dürer Giclee “Praying Hands”, and the story behind this was quite amazing.



Following the talk we played ‘Beetle’ which we should have had in March and this was good fun and enjoyed by all.

Tea, Easter Cakes and biscuits were then served and on leaving a potted pansy was given to each lady.

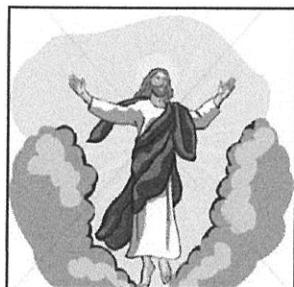
Our next meeting is now on 4th May (Thursday not the usual Wednesday). “A Coronation Tea” and singalong. The change of date is due to a double booking of the Cameron Hall.

So, don’t forget, the 4th and not the 10th May.

Audrey Stephens

Ascension Day – 18th May

Ascension Day is the 40th day after Easter Sunday - and always falls on a Thursday. It marks the last appearance of Jesus to the disciples after his resurrection at Easter.



Jesus had spoken to his disciples about what was going to happen to them and what he expected them to do. He was with them on the Mount of Olives when 'a cloud hid him from their sight' (Acts 1.9) and 'he left them and was taken up into heaven.

(Luke 24.51).

This is the last time the Bible records the risen Jesus being seen. The story of Jesus' ascension in the Acts of the Apostles tells of two angels appearing to his followers and telling them that Jesus will return one day.

Pentecost – 28th May



Ten days after the Ascension (and fifty days after the resurrection), the Holy Spirit, in form of flames, came to the followers of Jesus – as recorded in the New Testament. Jesus had told them to wait until the Spirit came to them. The message He had given them was “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you”.

And then, on that fateful morning there was suddenly the sound as of a mighty rushing wind. Tongues of flame flickered on their heads, and they began to praise God in many tongues – to the astonishment of those who heard them. Peter gave the first ever sermon of the Christian Church that morning, and 3,000 people were converted.

This is Pentecost - recognised as the birth of the Christian Church - celebrated on 28th May this year.

WORDSEARCH NOTES FOR MAY 2023

Facts about King Charles

He was born at 9.14pm on 14th November 1948 at Buckingham Palace.

He has been heir-apparent to the throne since he was three years old.

He is the first monarch in British history to have earned a university degree.

He can speak Welsh.

He is a qualified pilot and diver.

He is a keen watercolour painter, a published author and played the cello at Cambridge.

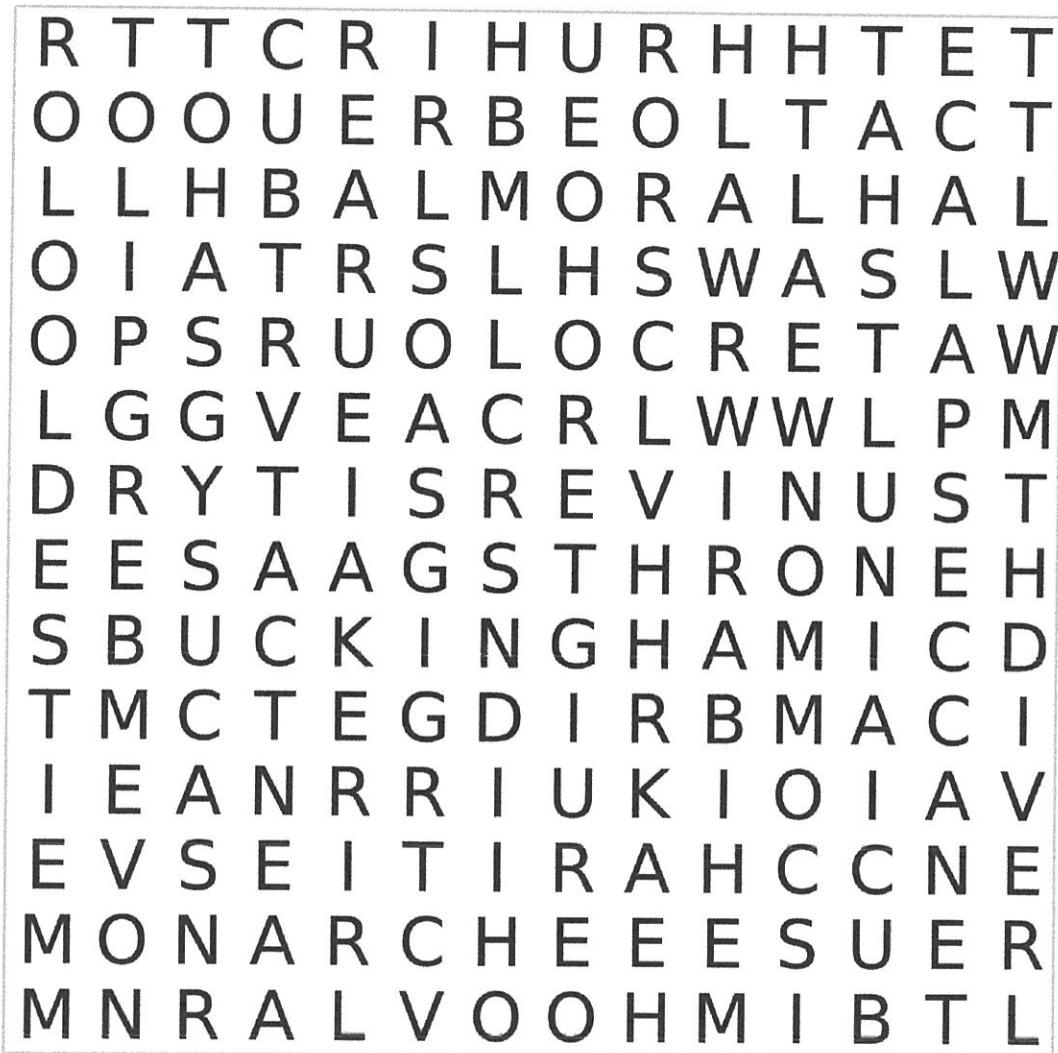
As Prince of Wales, he founded about 20 charities which raise about £140million each year for good causes.

Aged 73, King Charles III is the oldest monarch ever to be crowned in British history.

He became King on 8th September 2022, after the death of his mother, the Queen, in Balmoral.

As King, he is also now head of the Commonwealth.

WORDSEARCH FOR MAY 2023



PILOT

CELLO

BALMORAL

PALACE

WELSH

CHARLES

CHARITIES

WATERCOLOUR

DIVER

KING

HEIR

UNIVERSITY

THRONF

NOVEMBER

BUCKINGHAM

COMMONWEALTH

AUTHOR

CAMBRIDGE

OLDEST

MONARCH

THE CUCKOO AND THE DOVE

A cuckoo, sitting on branch of a tree, was wailing with grief.

A dove on a green bough in a neighbouring tree asked gently "What is the matter, dear friend? Why are you so unhappy? Is it because the spring and your mate are departing? Or is it that the sun is now lower in the sky and the winter is drawing nearer?"



"Alas, how can I help grieving?" wept the cuckoo. "You shall judge if I have not cause for sorrow. In the spring my mate and I were happy and gay, and by and by our little ones were born. But now those same children have cast me off. They refuse ever to notice me. Was this the treatment I expected from them?

How can I help feeling envious when I see the young ducklings gathering under their mother's wing and the chickens running eagerly to the hen when she calls them? I sit here all alone like an orphan, knowing nothing of the sweet affection of children for their parents".

"You poor thing", cried the pitying dove. "I am indeed sorry for you. Though I have heard of such cases, I must confess that I should be heart-broken if my children had no love for me. But tell me, had you already reared your little ones? When did you find time to make a home for them? I never saw you building a nest. You were always flying here, there and everywhere".

"I did not build a nest" replied the cuckoo. "How stupid I should have been to spend the warm sunny days sitting on eggs. I always leave them in the homes of other birds".

"Then I am afraid you cannot expect your children to care for you", said the dove.

A young American lawyer of the early 19th century was riding to court with his friends one day, when they saw two baby robins on the ground, which had fallen from their nest. Mother robin was cheeping piteously as she fluttered overhead.

His friends rode on – but the young lawyer didn’t. Eventually he re-joined hem, and they chaffed him about his muddy boots and clothes.

He admitted that he’d put the two young robins back in their nest, then added, “If I hadn’t, I wouldn’t have slept a wink all night.

Acts like this were second nature to the young man, Abraham Lincoln, later to become President of the United States of America.

Lincoln once gave some good advice to a young man setting out on his career: “Whatever you are”, he said, “make sure you are a good one”.

Further to this quote by Emerson, published in our February 2023 issue, ie: “The louder he talked of his honour, the faster we counted our spoons”:

Phil Craske reminds us of another:

“The reward of a thing well done is to have done it.”

~~~~~

Enjoy what you have rather than desiring what you don’t have.  
Just dreaming about nice things is meaningless; it’s like chasing the wind.

*The Bible: Ecclesiastes 6:9*

**A**t a recent Deacons' Service, we heard two interesting sermons – here is a summary.

**ANTHEA FOX:**

Talked about the Lord's Prayer, saying, among other things, that it is so familiar to us that we may sometimes repeat it without thinking. We heard the story of how the disciples first learned the prayer from Jesus, as they sat beside the sea mending their nets.

Anthea ended by saying, that at this point in any service, we say the Lord's Prayer, so now, let us say it together, but very slowly.

We did, and it made all the difference!

---

**HEATHER JONES:**

Began her sermon by listing some interesting and/or humorous car bumper stickers. I am sure we've all seen them.

Then Heather went on to remind us of the many well known Bible quotations. These were of course mostly familiar to us, and Heather went on to clarify and elaborate some of them – it is easy to remember them without really understanding.

The most famous one is from Matthew 22. V37-40:

'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind'. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is 'Love your neighbour as yourself'.

*Thank you both*

## HEDGEHOGS IN SPRING

Hedgehogs are waking up from long hibernation and will be hungry. They need food and water to replenish lost fat reserves. We can offer them meat based petfood and water, and they will repay us by keeping the snail and slug population down. Please take care when tidying up your garden from the winter – many hedgehogs suffer injuries from strimmers and garden forks. Check compost heaps too.

The late Eddie Askew, of the Leprosy Mission wrote a whimsical imaginary conversation with a hedgehog!

“Good morning – funny sort of life you lead just rooting around in the hedge all day, looking for food. Don’t you get bored? I don’t think I would like to be a hedgehog”.

The hedgehog thought for a moment, then said “I know what you mean, but look at it from my point of view. When autumn comes I will find a nice quiet hole and snuggle up for the winter. You will be outside in the cold, then trying to keep your house warm – and maybe even shovelling snow”.



It is true. Nature has its seasons. Times when we are frantically busy all day. Then comes a time of rest, when life calms down and we can relax.

We rush around the whole time because that’s what life seems to demand of us. No wonder we become stressed. We are human - that’s the way God made us – and He knows that we can only do so much before we need a break.

**Relax – Lord, slow me down.**

## **FROM SMALL BEGINNINGS**

A tiny acorn hugs its secret close  
That safe and warm inside its hardened shell  
The great and mighty oak tree latent lies  
Until such time in forest, wood and dell,  
The secret's out as God sees fit to show  
The sturdy tree with leafy branches green  
Held high to heaven – majestic now 'tis true,  
But once a lowly acorn small and mean.



A pebble thrown into the cool, still lake  
Sank straight to the depths of the water blue,  
Sending out ripples, circling far and wide  
Across the surface with energy new;  
Thus disturbed from its calm, the once still pool  
Flowed fast and pulsate in lively dance,  
Activated by just one tiny stone  
So casually thrown with scarcely a glance.



One kindly deed may ease another's woe,  
A friendly smile and gentle touch of hand,  
May smooth the pain and show them that we care;  
The listening ear that hears and understands  
The faltering words of hurt and deep despair!  
Just actions small – what may their influence be?  
We know not now, but in God's time we pray  
These seeds of love may grow just like the tree.

## CHURCH DIARY - MAY 2023

Coffee Pot Wednesdays and Saturdays – 10.30am – 12.00pm

|           |                  |                                          |                                                                                                                    |
|-----------|------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday    | 1 <sup>st</sup>  | BANK HOLIDAY                             |                                                                                                                    |
| Wednesday | 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | 11.00am                                  | Film Club Committee Meeting (Vestry)                                                                               |
| Thursday  | 4 <sup>th</sup>  | 2.00pm                                   | Community Friendship Club – Cameron Hall                                                                           |
| Saturday  | 6 <sup>th</sup>  | <u>CORONATION OF HM KING CHARLES III</u> |                                                                                                                    |
| Sunday    | 7 <sup>th</sup>  | 10.00am                                  | Morning Service                                                                                                    |
| Monday    | 8 <sup>th</sup>  | BANK HOLIDAY                             |                                                                                                                    |
| Saturday  | 13 <sup>th</sup> | 10.30am                                  | CHURCH MEETING (Coffee/Tea from 10.00am)<br>Followed by CHRISTIAN AID SOUP LUNCH<br>at 12 noon in the Cameron Hall |
| Sunday    | 14 <sup>th</sup> | 10.00am                                  | Morning Service including Holy Communion<br>CHRISTIAN AID SUNDAY                                                   |
| Monday    | 15 <sup>th</sup> | 10.30am                                  | Bible Study Group                                                                                                  |
| Wednesday | 17 <sup>th</sup> | 2.00pm                                   | Deacons' Meeting (Heath Room)                                                                                      |
| Friday    | 19 <sup>th</sup> | 7.30pm                                   | Film Club and AGM (Wallace and Gromit)                                                                             |
| Sunday    | 21 <sup>st</sup> | 10.00am                                  | Morning Service                                                                                                    |
| Monday    | 22 <sup>nd</sup> | 10.30am                                  | Bible Study Group                                                                                                  |
| Sunday    | 28 <sup>th</sup> | 10.00am                                  | Morning Service for PENTECOST                                                                                      |

|                                   |                  |              |                                  |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|--------------|----------------------------------|
| Monday                            | 29 <sup>th</sup> | BANK HOLIDAY |                                  |
| <b>ADVANCE DATE FOR JUNE 2023</b> |                  |              |                                  |
| Sunday                            | 4 <sup>th</sup>  | 10.00am      | Morning Service – TRINITY SUNDAY |

GOD LOVES YOU AND IS ALWAYS WITH YOU – AMEN

~~~~~

OUR LENT COIN COLLECTION FOR WATER AID

The total from the coin jars – plus some extra donations, totalled an amazing £72!!!, and I will send a cheque to WaterAid.

Very well done everybody, for supporting this worthwhile cause. We've all seen the horrors of countries where young girls walk a long way to collect dirty contaminated water. Our donation will help provide a well for a village.

There is also the sum of about £100, from the Bible Study weekly collection – in the famous dog collecting box. This will be sent a little later.

Barbara

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

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**Copy for the June 2023 issue
must reach Barbara by
Wednesday 24th May 2023**

**OLD COULSDON
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

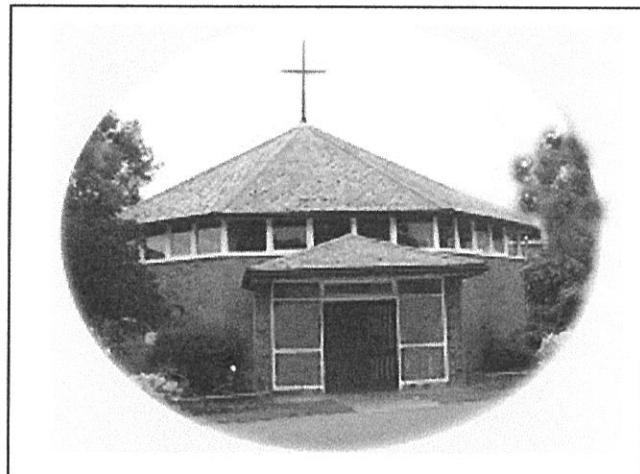
Formed in 1953 and on the present site since 1958

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**