



Open Door

**The Newsletter of
Old Coulsdon Congregational Church**

NOVEMBER 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

(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
Administrator	Heather Jones 32 Tollers Lane Old Coulsdon, Surrey, CR5 1BB Tel: 020 8406 0164 or 07788 418591 email: jones.heather47@gmail.com
Treasurer	Nigel Spencer 142 Coulsdon Road Old Coulsdon, Surrey, CR5 2LE Tel: 020 8660 2959 Mobile 07800 699553 email: nige.spencer61@gmail.com
Halls Manager	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: bookingsoccc@gmail.com

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



FROM THE MINISTER

Dear Friends

I am reminded of the recent Sermon I preached on Loving God, Others and..... You. There was a lot of very thought provoking and indeed uplifting feedback on this theme.

We enter November with the days getting shorter and darker, Remembrance Sunday will soon take place as we reflect on the cost of war, remembering those who fought and died for our freedom & remembering the wars being fought in our world as I write, thoughts of Christmas and the preparations of Advent with all that means also enter our minds.

Despite the tragedies, the violence & destruction, the despair, man's inhumanity to man.....we can still look to Christmas Day, to hope, to pray for peace, to pray for a world of tolerance, sharing selflessness and mutual understanding. All I want to say to you all now is to quote the words of the carol we will singing in a few weeks:

'O hush your noise you men of strife – and hear the Angels sing'.

AMEN

Grace and Peace

Pastor Malcolm

NOTES FROM THE MINISTER:

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY: Sunday November 12th

This year we will be joined again by our friends from the Muslim Scout Troop. Please make them feel welcome. After the shortened service [NO Communion], you are invited either to join the public outside for the community service at the War Memorial, remain quietly in church or at any time come through to the *Heath Room* for refreshments.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON: Saturday 25th November

The lights will be switched on at 5pm.

Stalls in Court Avenue will be open from 3.30pm [approx.].

Please note that Coffee Pot/Welcome place will need to end at 12.30 to allow the setting up of the Heath Room for Santa's Grotto for the CLOC festivities. Thank you.

ADVANCE NOTICE: CHRISTMAS FAIR, SATURDAY 2ND DECEMBER:

Please remember to support our Christmas Fair which starts a little earlier this year at 10am. Thank you to EVERYONE who has worked so hard to make the fair possible including of course the Committee and all those who have offered to run/help on a stall.

Here's to a wonderful day !!



The Band of the Surrey Yeomanry are returning!

Having enjoyed our band's concert at the church back in June 2022, several people have been asking when the band will be returning to entertain again. The date has now been confirmed as Saturday 27th April 2024. Once again, we will be raising money for The Royal Marsden Hospital. However, if this feels like quite a long way off, the band will be playing not too far away in just a short while:

Saturday 18th November at the Woldingham Village Hall. The evening (7:30pm for an 8:00pm start) will feature music from films, shows and all time greats, from Ellington to Phantom.....

Advanced tickets are £15 and available online at www.woldinghamvillagehall.com. Alternatively, it's £18 cash on the door. There will also be a cash bar.

The village hall location is:
Station Road, Woldingham. CR3 7DA.

Karen Earl



THE SIMPLE GOSPEL:

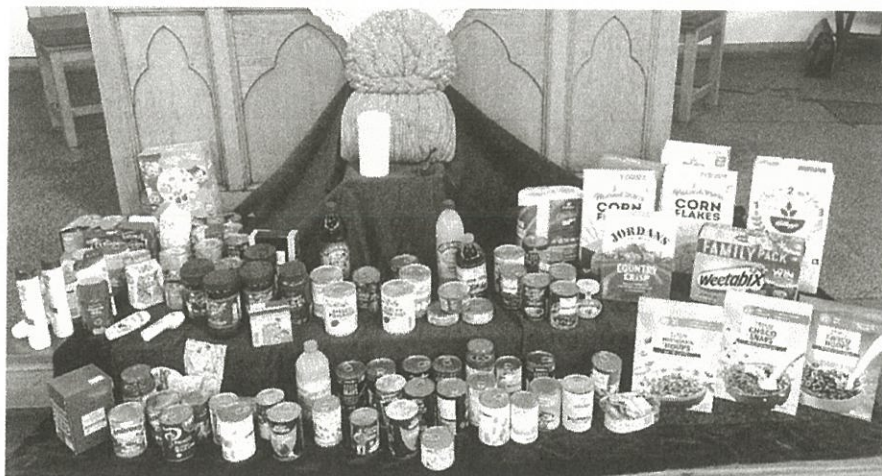
Global Week of Prayer

29th October – 5th November 2023

MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship) is a Christian Missionary Fellowship.

They fly light aircraft to reach worldwide remote areas – over jungles, mountains etc, taking the Gospel to overcome these barriers. The pilots and personnel deliver relief workers, doctors, pastors, school books, food, medicines – everything that can only be safely and speedily transported by air.

OUR HARVEST – 2023



We had a most enjoyable service for Harvest, where we displayed donated items for struggling families.

There was a wonderful selection of goodies – which included shampoo, deodorant and items for babies. People had thought of everything. These were displayed in front of the Communion Table, the area was overflowing with everything that was wanted. *(Photo by Heather)*

After the service, everything was transferred to bags to be taken to the Purley Food Bank, where there is a great need. Thank you everyone. *Judy Earl*

HARVEST LUNCH – 15th OCTOBER

A resounding success! We were served with shepherds' pie and vegetables, followed by apple crumble or ice-cream. Pat, Jan and Anthea served the food, and Hamish and Terry brought round the drinks – cider or apple juice.

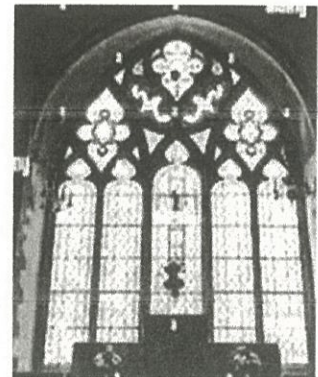
Here are some of us enjoying the meal – Margaret Thiry took these photos – but could not get everyone.



IN OUR OCTOBER ISSUE, there was the tale of a new church being built, where one stained glass window had been designed by a persistent apprentice. Eventually he was allowed to create one window, but he had to provide all the materials himself. Undaunted, this he did, by using all the stray bits of discarded glass. The finished window was beautiful and people stopped to stare in wonder.

I am reminded of a window in St Bartholomews Church in Otford, nr Sevenoaks. This church is famous for its wonderful stained glass, in particular the East Window.

However, in 1940 the whole window was shattered by a bomb. The then Vicar Reverend Albert Elder painstakingly collected all the pieces and which he kept safely until the war was over. The window was then reconstructed in 1947.



I have visited this church – it is truly spectacular.

Barbara

~~~~~  
**Be a stained-glass window**

People are like stained glass windows. We glow and sparkle when it is sunny and bright outside. But it is only when the sun goes down that our true beauty is revealed – and then only if there is a light deep within us – the light of God.



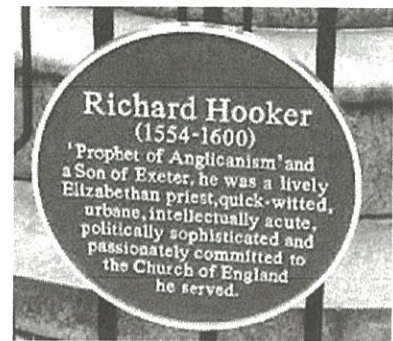
**3<sup>rd</sup> November:**

**Richard Hooker – priest, apologist, teacher**

Richard Hooker lived at a critical time for the Church of England. He became one of the most important English theologians of the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

He provided the Church of England with a theological method which combined the claims of revelation, reason, and tradition.

Hooker was born near Exeter around 1554, educated at Corpus Christi College Oxford, and was then made fellow there in 1577, and deputy professor of Hebrew in 1579. In 1581 he was ordained, and later appointed as Rector of Drayton Beauchamp.



The 1580s and 1590s were a time of bitter theological disputes between the Church of England, after the 1559 Elizabethan Settlement of the C of E, and the growing Puritan party within the Church.

Hooker was implacably against Puritanism, and set about refuting it, and defending the Church of England in his magisterial eight-volume book *On the Laws of Ecclesiastical Polity*.

The book has been called "probably the first great work of philosophy and theology to be written in English" In it Hooker set out to demonstrate the superiority of episcopacy in the C of E, as opposed to bringing in the presbyterian system that the Puritans wanted.

Anglicanism, he said, was rooted in both Scripture and tradition, as suited a Church both Catholic and Reformed. And as human reason is a gift from God, he argued that

this, too, was a vital element in interpreting both Scripture and tradition.

In 1585 Hooker was appointed Master of the Temple Church in London, but returned to rural ministry six years later, first at Boscombe in Wiltshire, and then at Bishopsbourne in Kent, where he died in 1600.

So, Richard Hooker was the first real apologist for Anglicanism. His contribution to Anglican thought was so huge that down the centuries he has won the backing of all wings of the Church: the evangelicals, Anglo-Catholics, and central churchmen.



This photo, by Heather, is of one of the latest flower displays for the radiator shelves in the church. They have been done by Audrey with assistance from Jackie.



## Quotes for November

The tragedy of war is that it uses man's best to do man's worst.

*Anon*

The Bible tells us to love our neighbours, and also to love our enemies; probably because they are generally the same people.

*GK Chesterton*

**NO GOD - NO PEACE. KNOW GOD - KNOW PEACE.**



## **A NEW KIND OF REMEMBRANCE POPPY**



For the first time in 28 years, there is a new kind of poppy for Remembrance Sunday this year: it is plastic free.

Director of the Poppy Appeal, Andy Taylor-Whyte explains: “We are very proud to introduce the plastic-free poppy.

It will not only enable people to support our Armed Forces community but also continues the RBL’s commitment to sustainability”.

The new poppy has been three years in the development and making. The aim was to reduce the use of single-use plastic and to “be economical, sustainable, and less impactful to the environment”.

The new poppy design has a 40% smaller carbon footprint, and it made from “bespoke red and green paper.” The paper comes from a blend of renewable fibres, 50 per cent of which has been recovered from the waste used in the production of coffee cups.

The plastic-free poppy will be available alongside remaining stocks of the current poppy, to reduce any waste of poppies already produced. Poppies containing single-use plastic can be returned to Sainsbury’s stores for recycling.

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## **USED STAMPS UPDATE**

Thank you to everyone who brought their stamps in to the church. As you know, our Maureen Rowe collected them together and sent them to Pauline MacBroom of the Cats Protection. We have had a grateful letter from Pauline.

Please continue to bring them in – especially in December when there will be some very attractive overseas stamps.



The name comes from the Roman word 'novem' meaning nine, because it was the ninth month in their Roman calendar.

"November is the most disagreeable month in the whole year".  
*(Louisa M Alcott, Little Women).*

Thomas Hood (23 May 1799 – 3 May 1845) was an English poet, author and humourist. He completed this much quoted well-known poem in 1844.

*No sun - no moon!  
No morn - no noon -  
No dawn - no dusk - no proper time of day.  
No warmth, no cheerfulness, no healthful ease,  
No comfortable feel in any member -  
No shade, no shine, no butterflies, no bees,  
No fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds! -  
November!*

On 26<sup>th</sup> November we celebrate "Stir-up Sunday".

This is the Sunday before Advent, and is so called because in the Book of Common Prayer the collect for that day begins "Stir-up, we beseech Thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people".

Also on 26<sup>th</sup>, we celebrate The Feast of Christ the King.

This marks the Kingship of Christ leading into Advent, Christmas and the remainder of the Christian year



**D**URING THE AMERICAN WAR OF INDEPENDENCE, a group of soldiers under the direction of a corporal was trying to heave a beam into position with ropes. Time and time again, when success was almost in sight, the beam slipped because the men just hadn't quite the strength needed. And all the while, the corporal stood by shouting 'Heave! Heave!'

A man in civilian clothes paused for a moment to watch. Then he said quietly to the corporal "Don't you think if you lent a hand the men might manage the job?"

"I?" said the corporal, on his dignity. "But I am a corporal!" Without a word, the stranger took off his coat and joined the men on the ropes. With the next haul the task was completed.

The helper put on his coat, saying "Well, we managed that together, gentlemen", then turning to the corporal added quietly, "If you have this sort of difficulty again, just send for the Commander-in-Chief. I shall always be glad to help".

It was then that the self-important little corporal realised the helper was George Washington!

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A small boy, aged about two, had progressed from single words to phrases, and his latest was "You need a hand?"

His parents thought it was cute. But it was probably more than that. Think of it this way. Children copy what they hear. (Something the corporal in the above tale should have acted on!). It seemed that it was one of the phrases that he heard most often - an offer of help, and is a good start in life.

WORD SEARCH

H	T	H	G	I	E	F	I	F	S	B	L	E
S	N	P	I	L	G	R	I	M	A	G	E	R
A	I	A	H	C	R	A	E	R	N	N	A	E
T	R	A	N	S	L	A	T	I	O	N	N	M
M	E	S	S	I	A	H	C	R	D	W	A	A
T	S	R	E	I	O	U	T	E	N	E	H	I
N	S	C	H	L	D	A	A	V	P	T	T	N
I	A	A	O	O	P	R	U	O	I	V	A	S
A	T	M	R	T	E	I	I	L	O	E	N	U
S	E	T	T	T	L	C	C	C	U	O	D	S
W	N	U	E	N	A	A	A	S	S	N	R	E
I	T	P	N	E	L	P	N	L	I	I	E	J
P	H	O	N	O	U	R	E	D	P	D	W	T

SCOTLAND

DISCIPLES

JESUS

ANDREW

HONOURED

PETER

NATHANAEL

BARTHOLOMEW

MESSIAH

SAVIOUR

PATRAS

ARCHAIA

EIGHTH

REMAINS

TRANSLATION

FIFE

PILGRIMAGE

TENTH

PIOUS

PATRON

SAINT

LOVE

INTRODUCING

PLACE

WORDSEARCH NOTES FOR NOVEMBER

This month, on 30th November, Scotland remembers one of the very first disciples of Jesus.

According to the gospel of Matthew, Andrew and his brother Simon Peter were the very first two disciples whom Jesus called. 'Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.' (Matt 4:18,19).

Whenever the gospels mention the disciples, Andrew's name is always in the first four. Rather than a boisterous leader of men (like Peter), he seems to have been an approachable person who wanted to help people.

St Andrew is honoured, not for any mighty deeds of his own, but for his love of introducing people to Jesus. He went straight off and introduced his brother Peter to the Saviour, and followed that up by bringing Nathanael/Bartholomew to Jesus. 'Better Together' seems to have been his slogan, too! 'We have found the Messiah!', he told them, unable to keep the good news to himself.

Andrew's connection with Scotland dates back to the claimed translation of his remains from Patras in Achaia to Scotland in the eighth century.

The church in Fife where these remains were buried became a place of pilgrimage during the tenth century. All of this may be no more than pious legend, but that St Andrew was highly regarded in Scotland and became its patron saint is beyond doubt.

In art Andrew is depicted with a normal Latin cross in the most ancient examples. The saltire cross 'X', commonly called St Andrew's Cross, and which represents Scotland on the Union Jack, was associated with him from the 10th century.

Four Magic Words

Long ago an Eastern monarch called his wise men together and asked them to invent a motto, a few magic words that would help him in time of trial or distress.

It must be brief enough to be engraved on a ring to be ever present. It must be appropriate to every situation, as useful in prosperity as in adversity. It must be a motto wise and true and endlessly enduring, words by which a man could be guided all his life, in every circumstance, no matter what happened.

The wise men finally came to the monarch with their magic words. They were words for every change or chance of fortune ... words to fit every situation, good or bad ... words to ease the heart and mind in every circumstance. The words they gave for the ring were:

This, too, shall pass.

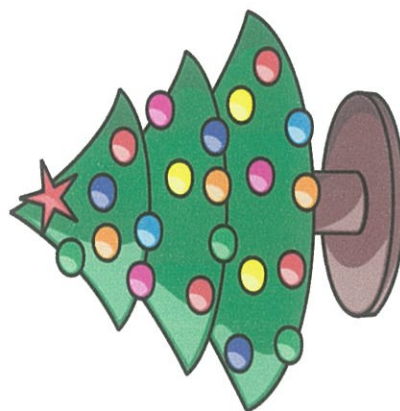


It is often thought that this is a verse from Scripture. It is not, but the idea is expressed in Ecclesiastes and Corinthians.



CHURCH DIARY – NOVEMBER 2023					
Coffee Pot/Welcome Place Wednesdays and Saturdays 10.30 am – 1pm/2pm					
Sunday	5 th	10am		Morning Service	
Monday	6 th	10.30am		Bible Study (Moses)	
Wednesday	8 th	2pm		CFC (NOTE Church is use by the Doctors)	
Friday	10 th	7.30pm		QUIZ NIGHT IN AID OF ST. JOHN'S SPIRE FUND	
Sunday	12 th	10am		REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY service followed by the Community Service at the War Memorial	
Monday	13 th	10.30am		Bible Study	
Wednesday	15 th	2pm		Deacons Meeting (Heath Room)	
Friday	17 th	10.30am 7.30pm		Christmas Fair Committee meets at the Manse Film Club (The Dig)	
Sunday	19 th	10am		Morning Service inc. Holy Communion	
Monday	20 th	10.30am		Bible Study	
Saturday	25 th	5pm		CLOC CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON	
Sunday	26 th	10am		Morning Service for CHRIST THE KING	
Monday	27 th	10.30am		Bible Study	

ADVANCE DATES FOR DECEMBER				
Friday	1 st	Morning		CHRISTMAS FAIR SET UP
Saturday	2 nd	10am		CHURCH CHRISTMAS FAIR
Sunday	3 rd	10.30am		GIFT SUNDAY
Wednesday	6 th	10.30am		Decorate Church Site for Christmas
Saturday	9 th	2pm		AFTERNOON QUIZ & TEA (Cameron Hall)



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
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Pastoral Care Co-ordinator:	Pat Robertson	0208 660 0792
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Leprosy Mission:	Evelyn Wooden	01737 552456
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South East Area Representative:	Contact the Minister for Federation Information	01737 554362
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Bible Fellowship Group:	Minister	01737 554362
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Community Friendship Club:	Audrey Stephens	01883 344863
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Proof Reader:	Evelyn Wooden	01737 552456
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**Copy for the December/January 2023/24 issue
must reach Barbara by
Monday 27th November 2023**

**OLD COULSDON
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

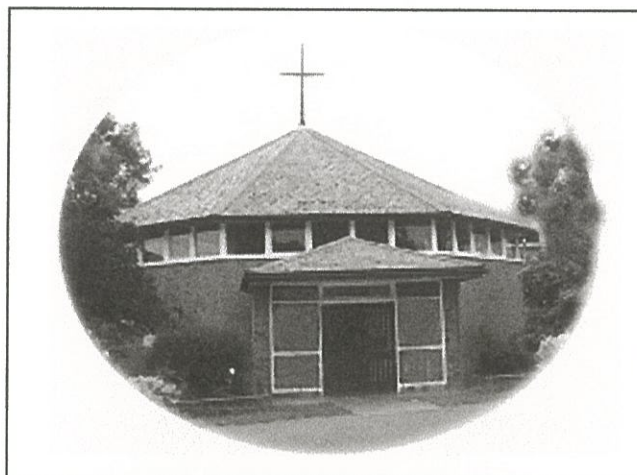
Formed in 1953 and on the present site since 1958

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**

Newsletter printed by Express Copy, Coulsdon