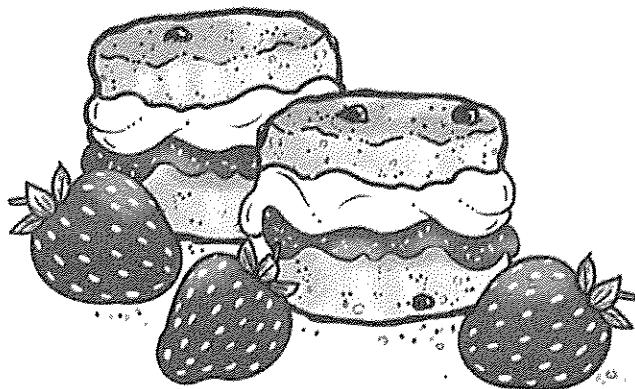


# Open Door

**The Newsletter of  
Old Coulsdon Congregational Church**

**JUNE 2024**



**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

This is one of the most important 'letters' I have written in my time here as your Minister.

I'm sure that most of you are well aware that in recent months and years we have not only had the passing of a number of the Fellowship to be with the Lord but also those who have now, for their health and safety, are in nursing or care homes.

This means our Fellowship has got smaller in number but the work continues in our Service to God and this Community.

Your Deacons have met to discuss this at some length. Their thoughts, ideas and prayers now need to be shared with the Church as a whole.

Please watch out for announcement of an informal 'church together' in the Cameron Hall. Refreshments will be provided and I would very much like:

- Your thoughts and comments on the Deacons' ideas.
- Your own ideas and thoughts and suggestions!

**PLEASE think outside the box.**

We need to be bold, brave and open to God's Leading.

**PLEASE come to this Church gathering if you can.**  
Details will follow soon.

**PLEASE PRAY** that we may take this part of Christ's Church forward in Love and in Service.

Grace and Peace  
Pastor Malcolm

## **NOTES FROM THE MINISTER**

### **JOHN HARWOOD:**

I know the whole Church was shocked and saddened by the sudden death of our dear friend and Life Deacon, John Harwood.

John and Gill have served this church faithfully for over 60 years.

At the time of writing the details of John's Funeral had not been finalised but I promise that as soon as the date, times, etc are known I will let you know.

We think of Gill, Robert, Clifford, Stewart and the wider family at this time.

### **80<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY COMMEMORATIONS :**

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June: 9.15pm. There will be a lamp lit walk around Grange Park to mark the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D Day. This will be followed by a tribute and a piper will also be in attendance.

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June: 7pm-9pm. There will be two D-Day Documentary Films shown in the Cameron Hall. Free admission and all are welcome.

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June: 10am. Morning Service will be shortened to finish at 10.45am. There will be NO Communion at this Service. You are invited if you wish to gather at the War Memorial for a short Service of Remembrance which will be conducted by Rev Sue Thomas from St John's and myself.

### **CHURCH AFTERNOON QUIZ/SUMMER TEA: Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June**

Our next Afternoon Quiz and Tea will be held in the Cameron Hall on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June starting at 2pm.

All are welcome, teams, couples and individuals. Cost is £5pp.  
Names to Anthea Fox please ASAP.

### **VILLAGE FAIR: Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July**

A reminder that the 2024 Village Fair will be on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July in Grange Park from 12noon. There will be a Church Information Stall.

### **ANNUAL LEAVE: 8<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> July**

Would everyone please note that I will be on Annual Leave from July 8<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> inc. During this time, please contact Heather or Pat [Pastoral] in the first instance. In case of difficulty or an emergency please contact a Deacon. Many thanks.

## **THE D-DAY NORMANDY LANDINGS**



Eighty years ago, on 6<sup>th</sup> June 1944, the D-Day Normandy Landings took place. More than 150,000 Allied troops landed on the beaches of Normandy. The Battle of Normandy ended on 25<sup>th</sup> August with an Allied victory.

The question of what the *D* stood for has never been absolutely determined: some say it just stood for Day; others maintain it was Disembarkation, because it was an amphibious operation.

What is sure is that there was a spiritual dimension. General Eisenhower, the commander of Operation Overlord, urged those taking part to “beseech the blessing of Almighty God upon this great and noble undertaking”, and President Roosevelt broadcast a prayer to the nation – the United States, that is.

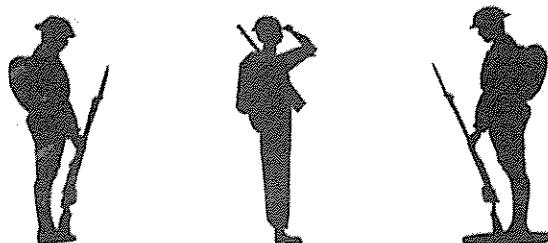
Before June 5 –the original date for D-Day, before bad weather forced a rethink – a massive and successful series of deceptions were put in place to make the Nazis think the invasion would come elsewhere.

The Germans were certainly confused. Hitler, thinking the attack was a feint, refused to send reinforcements, and their strategy was hampered by the absence of their brilliant Commander Erwin Rommel, who was on leave.

Nevertheless, the Americans suffered over 2,000 casualties at Omaha Beach, which was the most heavily defended. Altogether it was reckoned that over 4000 Allied troops

were killed, but about 156,000 successfully stormed the beaches, and many landed behind the lines, including American paratrooper Private John Steele, who descended on to the pinnacle of the church tower in Sainte-Mère-Église, the first village to be liberated by the U S Army. Lit up by searchlights, he survived by pretending to be dead, was captured and then escaped, joining the invading soldiers.

This year handmade silhouettes of almost 1,500 servicemen were transported to Normandy for an art installation, *Standing with Giants*, to mark the anniversary.



## USING REST TO PRAY

Most of us think of prayer as a very demanding activity, but did you know it can be extremely restful?

One of the great verses in the Bible says this:  
“Be still and know that I am God” (Psalm 46:10).

It suggests we experience God most fully when we are still.

When we cease rushing around, pausing for a moment of thought and recollection, we are becoming prayerful, and God is very near.

Even a break for a morning coffee can be a moment of prayer, if we slow ourselves down and allow our thoughts to turn towards God.

by Tony Horsfall – a retreat leader and author.

## **This month sees the Longest Day of the Year and also Mid-Summer's Day.**

**These are not the same!**

June 21<sup>st</sup> is the longest day, ie the summer solstice. This is the actual day on which the sun rises to its highest point in the sky.



Hundreds of people go to Stonehenge, to watch the sun rise on the morning of 21<sup>st</sup> – the risen sun shines directly onto the famous Heel stone.

As old as the pyramids in Egypt, it is thought that Stonehenge was designed as a place of sun worship, or as part of a huge astronomical calendar.

It has been asked “If June 21<sup>st</sup> is the longest day of the year, why is it that we usually receive the hottest weather not on that day, but in late July and August?”

The reason is “the lag of the seasons.” The Earth just takes a while to warm up after a long winter - in some places, snow and ice still cover the ground. This is why it is hotter in mid-afternoon than midday.

Mid-Summer's Day is celebrated on 24<sup>th</sup> June, which is the feast of St John the Baptist. (His birth date is commemorated, as opposed to his date of death, which is the norm). With the coming of Christianity, many mid-summer celebrations were moved to this day.



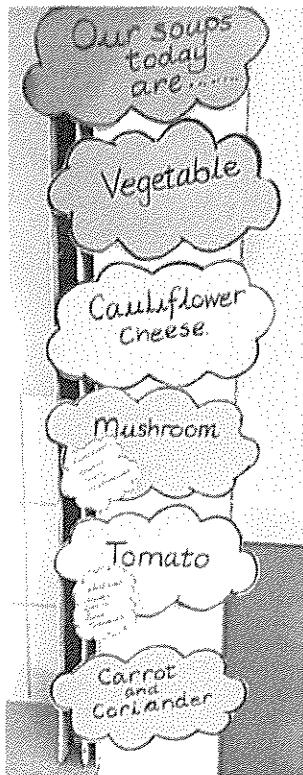
There is a shrub associated with this day, ie the Hypericum. The red spots on its leaves are said to have appeared when Herod sentenced John the Baptist to death. That is why it is popularly known as St John's Wort.

## CHRISTIAN AID SOUP LUNCH

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May

This was most successful. It took place in the Cameron Hall, at 12.00 (after our Church Meeting).

The total raised was £220. An excellent sum.



The menu – all the soups were delicious  
- Heather's Cauliflower Cheese sold out very quickly, as did the Mushroom.

Above are Jan and Anthea (hiding!) preparing the soups. with Terry nearby.



And here are two of the tables - everyone enjoyed lunch.

## MARGARET THIRY'S BIRTHDAY

..... on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> May we gathered in the Heath Room to celebrate our Margaret's \*\*\*\*98<sup>th</sup> birthday!\*\*\*\*

Here she is about to blow the candles out on two cakes.

She is amazing – as is her piano playing.



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## TRINITY SUNDAY SERVICE – 26<sup>th</sup> MAY

We had a most enjoyable service, especially as the music was by Peter Gilman's family.

Here they are – Grace on the flute and Finn the piano. Their harmony was excellent – I stopped singing at times to listen!

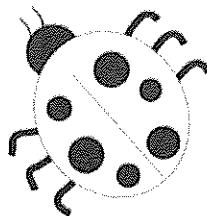


Also, Finn played a most attractive piece shortly before the service – I asked him after what it was, and he said that he just composed it. Most impressive.

Thank you everyone.

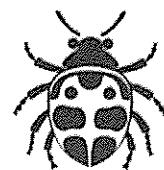
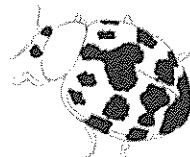
*Barbara*

# LADYBIRDS



We see many ladybirds in our gardens this time of year, and welcome them as they eat the aphids. The most common is our native variety - red with seven black spots.

There is however, an alien variety, the Harlequin, which is larger and has numerous colours and patterns. This is not good news, as they can feed on our species as well as the usual aphids etc. They appeared in the UK in 2004, from Europe and have now spread across much of England.



Our ladybird lore is interesting – the little beetle was at one time called “Our Lady’s Bird” and its red colour was seen as resembling the cloak worn by the Virgin Mary in old paintings. The seven spots were believed to be a reminder of seven joys and seven sorrows in Mary’s life.

*“Ladybird, ladybird, fly away home,  
Your house is on fire and your children  
are gone. All except for little Nan, weaving  
gold laces as fast as she can.”*

This poem above is well known and was first sung back in Mediaeval times. At the end of a harvest farmers would burn their crops to clear the land for new plants the following year. They sung this to ladybirds still lingering - her children were the larvae which could escape by crawling away but the Nan was the pupa, who was fastened to plants and not able to move - therefore burning.

The most popular story of how the ladybird got its name comes from the Middle Ages. In Europe swarms and

swarms of insects were ruining crops everywhere. Farmers started praying to the Virgin Mary hoping she could help the crisis.

Soon, ladybirds arrived and started eating the insects, which helped to protect the crops. The farmers called them Beetles of our Lady, because they believed the Virgin Mary had sent them to help. Eventually the name was reduced to Lady Beetles then Ladybirds.

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### **Gardening Hint:**

**Don't kill ALL the dandelions!**

There are still lots of dandelions in our gardens this month. Don't be too hard on them – they are one of the most important sources of nectar and pollen for bees, and help hives thrive.

From that point of view, perhaps it is good that dandelions are so notoriously tough and fast growing.

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*Kind hearts are the gardens;  
Kind thoughts are the roots;  
Kind words are the flowers;  
Kind deeds are the fruits.*

*English Proverb.*

---

Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier. Be the living expression of God's kindness: kindness in your face, kindness in your eyes, kindness in your smile.

*Mother Teresa*

## DO IT ANYWAY

Words by Mother Teresa

People are often unreasonable, illogical, and self-centred;  
*Forgive them anyway.*

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives;  
*Be kind anyway.*

If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some true enemies;  
*Succeed anyway.*

If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you;  
*Be honest anyway.*

What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight;  
*Build it anyway.*

If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous;  
*Be happy anyway.*

The good you do today, people will forget tomorrow;  
*Do good anyway.*

Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough;  
*Give the world the best you've got anyway.*

You see, in the final analysis,  
it is between you and God;  
*It was never between you and them anyway.*

# RUTH: AN INTRODUCTION

## FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

by Canon Paul Hardingham

The book of Ruth is a story of God's grace operating in difficult circumstances, during the period of the Judges. It unfolds as a four-act drama, telling the story of how Naomi, her husband and two sons left Judah for Moab, where her sons married. When Naomi's husband and sons died, she returns to Bethlehem in Judah.

In the first act, Naomi tells her Moabite daughters-in-law, Orpah and Ruth, to stay in Moab. However, Ruth refuses to leave Naomi and accompanies her to Bethlehem (chapter 1). In the next act Ruth meets Boaz, a relative of Naomi, while gathering barley in his fields (chapter 2).

The third act takes place at the threshing floor where Boaz is asleep and Ruth lies at his feet. She expresses her desire to marry him, as her kinsman-redeemer. But Boaz tells her of another prior claim (chapter 3). Finally, at the city gate, the other relative renounces his claim, and Boaz marries Ruth (chapter 4).

In Ruth's story we see God's unseen hand directing the lives of the characters to accomplish his purpose e.g. '*Naomi returned from Moab accompanied by Ruth, arriving in Bethlehem as the barley harvest was beginning*' (1:22). He transforms Naomi's sorrow into joy, rewarding Ruth with a place of honour in Israel's history. In Boaz, we see a foreshadowing of the work of Jesus Christ, as he pays the price to secure Ruth's future.

*'In its artful telling of this 'outsider' widow, uprooted and obscure, who turns out to be the great-grandmother of David and the ancestor of Jesus, the book of Ruth makes it possible for each of us to understand ourselves, however ordinary, as irreplaceable in the full telling of God's story'.*

(Eugene Peterson).

## A SERMON

This sermon was found in a long-ago church magazine, attributed to an African preacher:

“If all the sleeping folk will waken up, and all the lukewarm people will fire up, and all the disgruntled folk will sweeten up, and all the discouraged folk will make up, and all the lazy folk will shake up, and all the gossiping folk will shut up, then we shall have a good church”.

*(We at OCC already do this!).*

And by the same rule of course – a good home, a good school, office or workshop; a good village, town or city, a good nation, a good world.

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## USED STAMPS UPDATE

We recently, with the help of our Maureen Rowe, sent another batch of stamps to Pauline MacBroom, who collects and sends to the Cats Protection.

Here is her reply:



*Hi Barbara*

*That is wonderful news. I have just taken many stock books, first day covers and loose stamps to Stanley Gibbons for auction. (I used to work there and the auction department do not charge me commission as it's for charity).*

*It is a lengthy process, but well worth it in the end.*

*All I can say, is Thank You and keep 'em coming. Pauline*



**So, thank you again everyone, and as Pauline says, please keep them coming!**

*Barbara*

## **THE UNWANTED VASE**

The brown and yellow striped vase had been a wedding present, and for many years the lady kept it on display. She and her husband had never liked it, and after a long time, when the giver had passed on, they decided it was time to dispose of it.

So, it became a contribution to the next church jumble sale. “Whoever would want it though?”, they commented.

Some weeks later, as they sat in church, the lady nudged her husband and said “Look at the Communion Table”.

There was a mass of tawny and gold chrysanthemums in a container of the same colours - it was the rejected jug. And the display looked wonderful.

They thought how marvellous it was that their ordinary jug had been transformed when it was used to the Glory of God.

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## **A FLOWER IS A REFLECTION OF GOD:**

It is a representation of His unending blessings and provisions in our lives.

The lush green foliage that forms the foundation of the flower arrangement symbolizes the manifold grace of God that sustains us. It reminds us that everything we have and all that we are, is ultimately a gift from God.



The Romans believed that anything discussed under roses was confidential, hence the modern term “sub rosa” - meaning “done in secret”.

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## **JOHN THE BAPTIST**

### **Preparing the way for the Messiah**

**John the Baptist is famous for baptising Jesus, and for losing his head to a woman.**

**He was born to Zechariah, a Temple priest, and Elizabeth, who was a cousin of Mary, the mother of Jesus. John was born when his mother was advanced in years, and after the foretelling of his birth and the choice of his name by an angel, we hear nothing more of him until he began his mission of preaching and baptising in the river Jordan, C27.**

**John was a lot like an Old Testament prophet: He lived simply on locusts and honey in the wilderness, and his message was one of repentance and preparation for the coming of the Messiah and his Kingdom. He went on to baptise Jesus, at Jesus' firm request.**

**When John went on to denounce the incestuous union of Herod Antipas with his niece and brother's wife, Herodias, he was imprisoned and eventually beheaded at the demand of Salome, Herodias' daughter.**

**John is the only saint to be remembered three times in the Christian calendar, in commemoration of his conception, his birth (June 24), and his martyrdom. When John saw Jesus he said that Jesus was the "Lamb of God", and he is the only person to use this expression of Jesus. In art John is often depicted carrying a lamb, or with a lamb near him.**



## WORDSEARCH FOR JUNE

This Wordsearch features John the Baptist. His role was unique, but all over the world Christians today are in ministry for exactly the same purpose: “...to make ready for the Lord a people prepared”.



ANGEL	DUMB	MESSIAH
ANNOUNCE	ELDERLY	MINISTRY
BABY	GABRIEL	PREPARE
BARREN	HEROD	TEMPLE
CHILDREN	INCENSE	UNIQUE
COMING	JOHN	WIFE
DISBELIEF	LAUGH	ZECHARIAH

## BE CAREFUL

Be careful of your thoughts  
for your thoughts become your word.  
Be careful of your words  
for your words become your actions.  
Be careful of your actions  
for your actions become your habits.  
Be careful of your habits  
for your habits become your character.  
Be careful of your character  
for your character becomes your destiny.

Unknown

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## "By the Skin of Your Teeth"

A phrase often used in everyday conversation - which means: narrowly or barely. This refers to a narrow escape from a situation or disaster, or marginally achieving something.

These words first appeared in English in the *Geneva Bible*, 1560, Job 19:20, which provides a literal translation of the original Hebrew:

*"I haue escaped with the skinne of my tethe."*

This was copied into the *King James Bible* (1611).

(Teeth don't have skin, of course, so the writer may have been alluding to the teeth's surface or simply to a notional minute measure).

## HEAVEN'S GROCERY STORE

I was walking down life's highway a long time ago. One day I saw sign that read "Heaven's Grocery Store". As I got a little closer, the door came open wide, and when I came to myself, I was standing inside, I saw a host of angels, they were standing everywhere.

One handed me a basket and said "My child shop with care". Everything a Christian needed was in the grocery store. And all you couldn't carry you could come back the next day for more.

First I got some Patience, Love was in the same row. Further down was Understanding, you need that everywhere you go.

I got a box or two of Wisdom, a bag or two of Faith, I couldn't miss the Holy Ghost for it was all over the place. I stopped to get some Strength and Courage, to help me run this race.

By then my basket was getting full, but I remembered some Grace.

I didn't forget Salvation, for  
Salvation is free. So I tried to get  
enough of that to save both you and  
me.

Then I started up to the counter to pay my  
grocery bill. For I thought I had everything to  
do my Master's will.

As I went up the aisle, I saw Prayer and I just  
had to put that in, for I know when I stepped  
outside, I would run right into sin.

Peace and Joy were plentiful, they were on  
the last shelf. Song and Praises were hanging  
near, so I just helped myself.

Then I said to the Angel "Now how much do I  
owe? He just smiled and said "Just take them  
everywhere you go". Again, I said "How much  
do I really owe?" He smiled again and said  
"My child, Jesus paid your bill a long time  
ago!"

*Anthea Thorpe submitted this meaningful  
poem. It was found amongst her mother's  
papers after she died, and was read at  
her funeral.*

## CHURCH DIARY – JUNE 2024

Sunday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	10.00am	Morning Service
Monday	3 <sup>rd</sup>	10.30am	Bible Study
Thursday	6 <sup>th</sup>	9.15pm	80 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day Lamp Walk (Grange Park)
Friday	7 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	D-Day Documentary Films (Cameron Hall)
Sunday	9 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Morning Service (NO Holy Communion) followed by Special Service at the War Memorial (10.55).
Monday	10 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Bible Study
Sunday	16 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Morning Service including Holy Communion for Fathers' Day
Monday	17 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Bible Study
Friday	21 <sup>st</sup>	7.30pm	Film Club
Saturday	22 <sup>nd</sup>	2.00pm	CURCH AFTERNOON QUIZ AND SUMMER TEA

Sunday	23 <sup>rd</sup>	10.00am	Morning Service
Monday	24 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Bible Study including Holy Communion
Sunday	30 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Morning Service led by the Deacons
<b>ADVANCE DATES FOR JULY</b>			
Thursday	4 <sup>th</sup>	GENERAL ELECTION	
Saturday	6 <sup>th</sup>	12 NOON	VILLAGE FAIR (Grange Park)
8 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup>			MINISTER ON ANNUAL LEAVE
<b>GOD LOVES YOU AND IS ALWAYS WITH YOU - AMEN</b>			

## 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,  
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

### 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 July/August 2024 issue  
must reach Barbara by  
Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2024**

**OLD COULSDON  
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

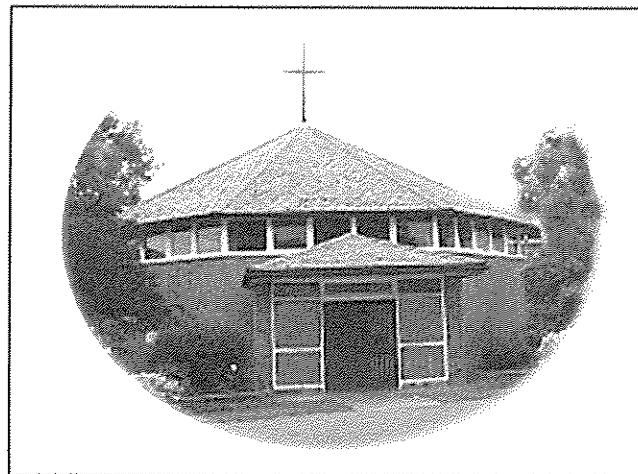
**Formed in 1953 and on the present site since 1958**

**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 - 2024**



- \* 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*