

TRANSFORM CROYDON

A season of prayer
for our borough

2022



Welcome to the 2022 Croydon Churches Prayer Booklet

When I first became involved with Croydon Churches Forum, about 12 years ago, what struck me most was the range of charitable work and social support that was being carried out by church groups and Christians generally around the borough. All of this was powered by a strong tradition of shared prayer at all sorts of levels — and I'm very pleased and proud of the people of Croydon and their church leaders, that this is still true today.

In fact, it is even more true today than it was then as Christians have responded to the urgent needs that have arisen. I'm thinking of the riots of 2011, the refugee crisis of 2016 and onwards, concerns about knife crime and about the safety of our young people, the racial justice issues highlighted by the murder of George Floyd — as well as the Covid-19 pandemic and its economic and social consequences.

Our prayer booklet was originally conceived as a way of bringing together the two dimensions of shared prayer and practical response, which has been such a strength of Croydon churches. For each day, as we journey towards Easter, there is a brief description of one particular ministry, charitable service or pastoral initiative. Below this, there are suggestions for prayer. This has been a great reminder to me that so much of the wonderful work being done by so many in our congregations and communities takes place out of sight and behind the scenes.

It is also a call to prayer, as we open ourselves to God — not only asking him to prosper our efforts, but also to guide us in the right direction, as we know that *"If the Lord does not build the house, in vain do the builders labour"* (Psalm 127). It is wonderful that we are now able to gather again to pray "in person", which is such a powerful and transformative experience. But our prayer booklet also means that those who can only pray alone are not truly alone, because they are praying at the same time as so many others.

I pray that we may all be truly blessed through our shared prayer and that our prayers may be answered by the Lord's blessings upon our borough and all its people.

Bishop Paul Hendricks

Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark

Chair of Convenors, Croydon Churches Forum

Wednesday 2nd March

Praying for our Borough

“Seek (inquire for, require and request) the peace and prosperity (welfare) of the city to which I have carried you...Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.” Jeremiah 29:7

Has Croydon ever needed our prayers more than it does now?



Let's pray:

For the Council: For God to forgive us our debts and for our Council leaders to receive God-given gifts of wisdom and administration to lead us out of bankruptcy. For the forthcoming Mayoral election. For good relations between the Council and Croydon churches.

For service providers trying to maintain essential operations on reduced budgets. Ask God to miraculously stretch and multiply their resources so that no needy person is overlooked. Pray that churches will know how to respond to the cuts and where, or if, they should step in to fill the gaps.

For our police and emergency services: For safety and protection as they go about their patrols, respond to call-outs and are faced with dangerous or volatile situations. For wisdom and integrity in every interaction with the public.

For our health care professionals working under pressure to keep us physically and mentally healthy during the pandemic and now and facing a huge backlog of cases. Pray for their own mental well-being, stamina and, once this is finally over, for fair pay settlements.

For income-generators: For Croydon to recover we need investors and employers to relocate here. Pray for companies to be drawn to the borough and to see potential here. Pray for the town centre to be regenerated. Pray for fair business rates and fair dealings with the Council. Speak words of life over our borough. Pray that it will prosper.

Thursday 3rd March

Toddler Groups

“He gently leads those who have young.”

Isaiah 40:11



Churches have been running parent and toddler groups for years, offering friendship and support to parents, alongside play opportunities and social contact for pre-schoolers.

Some groups are quite structured, including an element of faith; some are built around music and singing; others are open for free play. Increasingly, groups are limiting spaces so parents have to book-in on a first come, first served basis.

Toddler groups can be a lifeline for carers struggling to cope with the challenges and responsibilities of being at home with small children. This is particularly true for new mums or single parents who can find the whole experience overwhelming. At toddler groups, carers can help each other through their shared experiences. If a mum is having a rough day there is usually another pair of arms ready to hold a baby or distract a crying child.

Please pray:

1. For the safety of all children as they play and interact. (Some would appear to be natural escape artists!)
2. For carers who are lonely, struggling to cope or in need of encouragement, to find the help and support they need.
3. For opportunities to connect families to other church events.
4. For this generation of babies to grow up happy, healthy and strong.

Friday 4th March

Croydon Churches Floating Shelter/ Croydon Nightwatch



“Hungry and you gave me something to eat...thirsty and you gave me something to drink...a stranger and you invited me in...needing clothes and you clothed me.” Matthew 25:35-36

Continuing restrictions, requiring each guest be allocated a single room (or pod), have meant that, again, CCFS has been unable to provide a night shelter this winter and has had to look for other ways to support the homeless. So each night, from November to the end of March, volunteers from our 21 host churches have been making 10 loaves of sandwiches to take to Nightwatch in Queen’s Gardens, an increase from eight loaves a night last season. We are also providing five hot meals each day to The Hub, which provides temporary accommodation for five rough sleepers and a quick turnaround triage service in order to get them moved into more permanent housing. Some of these people the Night Shelter would have been hosting, were we open, and so we are pleased to be able to support them in this way.

It is our hope and prayer that CCFS will open again in 2022, should there be a need.

Please pray

1. For safety and well-being of the teams that operate in Queen’s Gardens – that they might be kept Covid-free.
2. For the Hub, that the home-cooked meals, toiletries, clothing and other items donated by the churches will make the clients feel they are cared about.
3. For long term solutions to the problems of homelessness.

Contact: John Broom

Email: john_broom@sky.com

Saturday 5th March

Croydon Christian Youthworkers

Networking the borough's Christian youthworkers.



Croydon Christian Youthworkers is a network for youthworkers who usually meet termly to pray, share information and keep updated on issues relevant to young people and youth ministry. The group also stays in contact and shares news through a WhatsApp group.

Youth work can be challenging at the best of the times but the past few years have been particularly difficult with the impact of the pandemic, increasing issues of youth violence in Croydon, and a number of experienced Croydon church youthworkers moving away.

Please pray:

1. For God to raise up youthworkers across the Croydon churches who have a heart to serve our young people. Pray particularly for churches struggling to find youthworkers.
2. For God to move mightily in the lives of the young people who are already a part of our churches.
2. For an increasing spirit of unity and co-operation as youth leaders come together to encourage one another.
3. For the church to effectively engage with all young people in Croydon and see an end to the escalating levels of violence and other issues impacting young people.

Contact: mark.rossell@newlifecroydon.co.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/croydonchristianyouthworkers

Sunday 6th March

Croydon Churches Forum (CCF)



Going where the energy is.

Croydon Churches Forum is the “light-touch” unity body for all of the churches and Christian organisations within Croydon and a means by which outside organisations such as Croydon Council can contact and communicate with the wider church.

There are around 230 churches in our borough, serving the community in many ways. We have a mailing list of CCF churches and pass on information by means of a regular newsletter, Facebook posts, the website and at various meetings held throughout the year. For the last 10 years, in the run-up to Easter, CCF has produced a prayer booklet which acts as a focus for unity and prayer.

An appointed group of up to six convenors, selected to represent the broad nature of the various churches, meets regularly to lead and monitor policy and practice.

Currently the Convenors are:

Bishop Paul Hendricks (Chair)

Pastor Damian Luke

Bishop Paul Reid

Rev Dr James Collins

Archdeacon Dr Rosemarie Mallett (Acting convenor)

Please pray:

1. For good communication and efficient working relationships between CCF member churches and with our local community.
2. For more churches to appreciate the value of unity.
3. For Bishop Jonathan Clark as he steps down as a convenor and retires to Orkney later this month.

Contact: Judi Lane, Administrator

Email: info@croydonchurch.org.uk

Website: www.croydonchurch.org.uk

Monday 7th March

MENT4

"There is no shortage of teenagers in need of help!" Pete Stanley, Ment4 Director



- Ment4 mentors Croydon teenagers vulnerable to crime, drugs, knife crime, self-harm, gangs, domestic violence, mental health issues, school exclusions, trauma, lack of hope. We are at the sharp end of helping Croydon's families in trauma. Our team are all members of local churches with a heart to help and to push through tough times.
- In November 2021 we celebrated our tenth birthday, in that time we have helped mentor 272 young people. Ment4's re-offending rate among the young people we have helped is around 10% compared to the national re-offending rate of 40%. In financial terms this means we have saved the state over £30 million. More importantly our work has brought a number of young people closer to a relationship with God.

Please pray with us that:

1. More teenagers are referred to us for help.
2. More mentors join our team to help them.
3. We have sufficient finances, donations and grants to pay for our work.
4. Many more in the Council and in schools come to us for help.
5. Church leaders also see our value and refer families to us for help.

Contact: Andy Stranack to find out more about Ment4's work

Tel: 07816 123204

Email: info@ment4.org

Website: www.ment4.org

Tuesday 8th March

Christian Family Concern

“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. This is my command: Love each other.” John 15:16-17



We are a small Christian charity based in South Croydon which seeks to express the love of Christ in action.

We provide services to support families in all sections of the borough's multicultural community, particularly the disadvantaged and those needing additional support, through:

- Housing support and accommodation for young mums and their children.
- Day nursery.
- Counselling service.

Please pray:

1. For the good health of all staff, residents and nursery children.
2. For our young mums to experience the love of Christ through our services and to acquire the necessary skills to live independently and to flourish in the future.
3. That our children may be blessed with a happy and secure childhood and grow to know Jesus personally.
4. For those we counsel to find peace and joy through the love of Christ.

Contact: Chloë Lindsey

Tel: 020 8688 0251

Email: admin@christianfamilyconcern.org.uk

Website: www.christianfamilyconcern.org.uk

Wednesday 9th March

Purley Food Hub

Showing God's love and provision to people in crisis.



The Food Hub is an independent food bank run by Purley & Kenley Churches Together. Since we opened in 2013 we have provided over 250,000 meals to more than 28,000 clients and family members who, for whatever reason, don't have enough money for food they need.

Donations of long-life food are received from large numbers of churches and schools, supermarkets and businesses, uniformed organisations, Rotary and WI, and many local families and individuals. We are grateful for everyone's kind generosity and to God who ensures we always have enough.

Clients are referred by frontline staff in 100 agencies in the borough. Since April 2020 we have operated as a home delivery service, delivering the food parcels direct to our clients' homes in Purley, South Croydon, Coulsdon and Waddon, with three days' food for each family member.

Please pray:

1. For our struggling clients and their difficult, often one-off situations.
2. For opportunities to talk about Jesus, to offer prayer and to see people coming to know Him. This is not always easy when we have to keep our distance.
3. For continuing support – food, volunteers and finances, giving thanks to God for His mighty provision.
4. For our Client Support Volunteers who can signpost clients to organisations for extra help, and for our partner organisations such as the Purley and Monks Hill Food Stops.

Contact: Tel: 07546 635295

Email: purleyfoodhub@gmail.com

Website: www.purleyfoodhub.net

Thursday 10th March

The Well

The Well exists to help mend broken lives.

For over 12 years The Well has been running from 11:00am-1:00pm every Monday to “provide rest, support and hope to all of those within our community marginalised through homelessness, the threat of homelessness, and related addiction and mental health challenges”.



Working closely with outside professional agencies, we see up to 35 clients each week, some just dropping in, some being referred to us. These sessions aim to meet both the immediate day-to-day needs of homeless people and those with the potential of becoming homeless and to address underlying, complex issues over the longer term. The project works in effective partnership with wonderful volunteers from our own church, other churches and the local community.

When the lockdown restrictions began in March 2020 we continued the work by operating from the church car park, which we still do. Keeping within Covid guidelines has been challenging but we have managed to provide a hot meal every week as well as providing access to the homeless outreach agency who come along to support.

We also provide emergency food parcels for those in need. We work with other professional agencies such as social services on an email referral system. So far this year we have provided over 3,000 food bags, which is meeting a very real need here in our community.

Please pray for renewed energy for the task before us, for focused working to meet our intended mission, for more volunteers to join the team and for the lives of our visitors to be changed and transformed into what God intends.

Contact: Chris Waldock, Mary Russell-Redman

Tel: 020 8680 9924 **Mobile:** 07551 571661

Email: chris.waldock@salvationarmy.org.uk

Friday 11th March

Croydon Street Pastors and School Pastors



The Church in Action on the Streets.

Our Street Pastors and School Pastors are trained volunteers from local churches, who usually patrol the streets of Croydon town centre to be a Christian presence and demonstrate God's love in practical ways.

Emerging from the pandemic, both Croydon Street and School Pastors are going through a huge time of change and transition. The number of active Street and School Pastors has shrunk and there is an urgent need to recruit more, along with new church leaders to serve on the management team.

We are also needing to adapt to the changing needs in Croydon. Street Pastors traditionally patrolled late on a Friday evening in the centre of Croydon, but other times and locations are now also being considered.

With the well-documented issues impacting young people in Croydon, there is a huge need to relaunch School Pastors this year to be a Christian presence on the streets as pupils make their way home from school.

Please pray

1. For wisdom and guidance as we consider the future vision for both initiatives.
2. For God to raise up new Street and School Pastors and for new church leaders to join our management team.
3. For God's blessing on our Street Pastors as they begin to resume their patrols and for the re-launch of School Pastors.
4. For God's powerful presence on our Croydon streets

Contact: Email: croydon@streetpastors.org.uk

Sign up for regular news: **Website:** www.croydon.streetpastors.org.uk

Instagram: [croydon_street_pastors](https://www.instagram.com/croydon_street_pastors)

Saturday 12th March

Let's Work Together

(formerly Healing On The Streets)

Evangelism, prayers and helping those in need.

During the pandemic, we were unable to operate as HOTS but God brought a few of us, from various churches, together on the streets of Croydon to preach the Gospel.



We have been out every Saturday from 12:00 noon to 3:00 pm 'preaching, praising and praying.'

Please pray with us:

1. For God to move through signs and miracles.
2. For the Gospel to be preached to all souls.
3. For the church of Jesus Christ to 'Unify for the Great Commission', be visible and bold.

If you are a Christian, please join us for evangelism, prayers and helping those in need.

Croydon North End – Opposite Metro Bank

Saturdays: 12:00noon-3:00pm

Wednesdays: 6:00-7:00pm – join us on Zoom to pray:

Enter meeting ID (853 1629 4454) Passcode (334455)

Contact: Tel: 07746 978089

Sunday 13th March

Croydon Gospel Festival

Reaching the community; preaching the Gospel; bridging the generational gap.

This free annual inter-denominational event aims to bring a lot of fun into sharing the Gospel and creating awareness of the need for God in our society. This year will be our 15th Croydon Gospel Festival.



For the last two years, we had to revamp the festival due to Covid restrictions and instead of holding it at the open park as in previous years, we took it to the street of Croydon with the theme 'Hope on the street.' At East Croydon, West Croydon, Thornton Heath, College Square and the Whitgift Centre top Gospel artists joined us to sing, dance and share the Gospel. We had many opportunities to pray with people, give encouragement and spread the love of Christ, it was so much fun.

Last year 10 churches joined His Grace Evangelical Outreach Church to take part in evangelism training, prayer and fasting beforehand and 96 people prayed the prayer of salvation and accepted Christ as their Lord and Saviour. Many more received prayer for healing.

This year we plan to hit the streets again!

Our 2022 dates are:

Saturday 27th – Monday 29th August

We will be at the same venues as last year.

Please pray for a harvest of souls in Croydon and for God's kingdom to come in our borough and for the Lord to provide all that is needed for this year's Gospel festival.

Contact: Pastor Bola Thomas **Tel:** 07946 546507

Email: event@hisgrace-evangelicaloutreach.co.uk

Monday 14th March

Alpha and Christianity Explored

Informal introductions to the Christian faith.

Alpha and Christianity Explored are two popular courses offered by many churches in Croydon.

They are designed for those who want to know more about the Christian faith, or to brush up on the basics, and offer opportunities to ask questions and think through issues in an informal setting.

The Alpha course centres on “big” questions such as “Who is Jesus?”, whereas Christianity Explored bases sessions on Mark’s Gospel. Both have proved very effective tools for leading people to faith.

The pandemic led many people to investigate or re-engage with matters of faith and churches are still reporting surprising numbers of visitors to their virtual services, and increased interest in their Alpha or Christianity Explored courses.

In-person courses often take place over a meal. Virtual courses may not include the conversation over a meal but they are still able to offer time to connect, relax and build friendships at the start of each session.

Each year over 1.3 million people globally participate in these courses.

Please pray:

1. For local and national advertising campaigns to catch the eye and cause people to consider joining a course.
2. For people to find opportunities and courage to invite their friends.
3. For courses to be well run, welcoming and safe.
4. For a harvest from any courses run by your church.

Websites: Alpha: www.alpha.org

Christianity Explored: www.ceministries.org



Tuesday 15th March

Croydon Refugee Day Centre

"I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine you did for me." Matthew 25.40



Covid restrictions have prevented us from operating our usual Tuesday morning drop-in, because of the crowded indoor environment. Instead we have adapted our services to provide clothing, food parcels and toiletries to those in need.

We receive donations of food items, new and good-quality second-hand clothing and footwear, buggies and baby clothing from organisations and individuals. All have to be sorted and passed on as needed. We are blessed to have exclusive use of a large church hall, converted to a clothes store with cupboards for dried food products, toiletries and some household items. We give thanks for all these donations and for our volunteers without whom we would not be able to provide our services.

Our Family Education Project has supported parents and children, mainly in one South Croydon hotel, through various activities and educational games for children not in school. We have also helped parents with school admission procedures for their children.

Please pray:

1. For the health and safety of all asylum seekers in Croydon. May their cases be assessed speedily, justly and with compassion.
2. For financial provision to meet the needs of those who seek our services.
3. For wisdom for the trustees and leading volunteers in discerning how to adapt our services in a changing and uncertain environment.

Contact: Rory MacLeod

Email: rdmacleod@virginmedia.com

Wednesday 16th March

Croydon Community Against Trafficking (CCAT)

An effective UK anti-trafficking/anti-slavery organisation working on the ground, in the community - where it matters.



Human traffickers are drawn to Croydon because of its good transport links and highly-populated commercial centre. CCAT campaigns vigorously to free slaves of human trafficking within Croydon and beyond, ensuring that the issue remains high on the agenda, locally and nationally. We work in partnership with various services in Croydon to help and motivate them to improve support for victims and to disrupt trafficking activity. Progress is being made but there is still much work to be done.

The Covid pandemic has created circumstances that make it impossible for many victims to escape from their captors so it is essential we all keep our eyes open to spot the potential signs of people being controlled and enslaved, reporting our findings to the Modern Slavery Helpline. The pandemic has also had a financial impact on our operations. Several of our traditional funding streams have dried up and we are relying entirely on our volunteers to campaign and petition local and national government. If anyone feels they can help CCAT in our quest to prevent slavery in Croydon in these challenging times, please get in touch with us.

Please pray:

1. For the public to report any suspicions of this heinous crime to the authorities, or to call the free public Modern Slavery Helpline 0800 0121 700 (open 24/7).
2. For CCAT's work in co-operation with other agencies to liberate, protect and support trafficked people, and for success in disrupting the activities of human traffickers.

Contact: Email: manager@theccat.com **Website:** www.theccat.com

Thursday 17th March

133

“When God’s people live together in unity... the Lord bestows his blessing.” Psalm 133:1,3

133 is a group for church and ministry leaders in the Croydon area. It has been running since 1989 and takes its name from Psalm 133, where God’s blessing is promised when we live together in unity.



Following the easing of Covid restrictions, 133 now meets on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 1:00pm. On the first Wednesday leaders meet in-person for lunch at Praise House church with an emphasis on fellowship and prayer. On the third Wednesday they meet on Zoom for a short time of worship and prayer.

133 offers a great opportunity for church and ministry leaders to take a short time out of their busy schedules to worship and pray together and to share and update one another on what’s happening in our churches and around the borough.

Please pray:

1. That unity between leaders from a wide background of churches will continue to grow and develop and we will experience the blessing that God has promised.
2. For leaders to be refreshed and encouraged as they come together.
3. Specifically for church leaders who are feeling overburdened and stressed to find encouragement.
4. For the long-term vision, direction and growth of the group.

Contact:

Mark Rossell **Email:** mark.rossell@newlifecroydon.co.uk

Damian Luke **Email:** dluke@praisehouse.org.uk

Friday 18th March

Croydon Burn 24/7

Communities passionately pursuing His presence.



Burn 24/7 is a global “prophetic worship movement”. Our heart is to cultivate a place where musicians and worshipers have the freedom to release creative, spontaneous, prophetic songs. We believe that as we release the word of the Lord over our region, God’s purposes will begin to accelerate. Burn in the UK really got under way with a 24/7 worship Burn that lasted throughout the London Olympics in 2012.

Since its launch in September 2017, Croydon Burn has been hosting extended hours of non-stop worship and prayer on the third Friday of every month. In the last few months we have begun to meet again at West Croydon Baptist Church while maintaining our online presence on Facebook.

Teams come from many denominations all over Croydon and beyond and our united worship creates a canopy under which we cry out in intercession to God for awakening in the church and for transformation of our borough, cities and nation.

Please pray:

1. For an increased desire across Croydon for God’s presence.
2. That we effectively facilitate and promote unity and honour across all ages and cultures, whether meeting together or online.
3. For more volunteers to join our team.

Contact: Ken Smith, Burn Director

Email: kens@theburn247.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/croydonburn

Instagram: www.instagram.com/croydonburn

Website: www.burn24-7.com

Saturday 19th March

Alive Community Centre Food Bank

Distributing food that is close to expiry date and would otherwise be thrown away.



Every week we collect excess fruit, vegetables, bread and milk from local supermarkets for distribution on Saturday afternoons between 1:00-2:00pm from Elim Pentecostal Church, Thornton Heath.

We are currently feeding around 200 people a week. We take referrals from social services, family centres, schools and various charities but individuals can also refer themselves if they can show they are on benefits, unemployed, homeless or otherwise in need.

At the height of the first lockdown in 2020 we were delivering food six days a week to around 180 households in Croydon. The need was enormous but many in our local community who had been furloughed or made redundant came forward to help. This turned out to be one of the biggest witnessing opportunities our church has ever had, as our dedicated group of volunteers was a mix of both Christians and non-Christians and most of our clients are also non-Christians.

Please pray for our volunteers and clients to respond to Jesus and give their lives to Him. Ask God for our continued strength and perseverance to serve what is one of the poorer areas of the borough. Please also pray for finances to run our food collections van and to keep buying PPE for our volunteers.

If you know anyone who could benefit from collecting fresh food from us:

Contact: Matilda **Tel:** 07949 489075

Website: www.mershamroad.org

Sunday 20th March

Croydon NHS Trust Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care



“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples...baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...And surely I am with you always.” Matthew 28:16-20

As part of its provision of holistic care, Croydon Health Services NHS Trust’s Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care Team provides pastoral, spiritual and religious care for people of all beliefs. This includes patients, relatives, staff and volunteers. Our team is available in the hospital between 9:00am-5:00pm Monday to Friday. We are also available for emergencies 24/7/365 to provide holistic support. Alongside us we have a team of volunteers who walk the wards during the week to meet with people needing pastoral and spiritual help.

Our dedicated space – St Barnabas Worship Centre – is open from 7:00am-8:00pm every day, and located close to our chaplaincy office in Woodcroft Wing. We also provide prayer, anointing and Holy Communion on the wards to patients unable to come to our weekly Sunday 10:00am service.

Please pray that whether we are ministering to patients who are sick, anxious and fearful of dying; or to staff who are weary and worn down by the pressure of working in stressful conditions; or to relatives in need of encouragement and comfort, we may speak and act with Christ’s compassion and authority.

Contact: Rev Andy Dovey, Lead for Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care

Email: andrew.dovey@nhs.net

Main office: 020 8401 3105 / 4015

Mobile: for emergencies 07557 014739

or: Rev Lynbert Douglas, Ecumenical Chaplain

Email: lynbert.douglas@nhs.net

Mobile: for emergencies 07557 014860

Monday 21st March

Vineyard English School (VES)

Free conversational English classes for speakers of other languages.

Over the past six years Croydon Vineyard has provided free conversational English classes to people whose first language is not English.

We currently have three mornings of teaching online each week via Zoom, and two days of in-person classes at Praise House on Tamworth Road. We are welcoming dozens of students each week from all over the world.

Twice a week our morning of teaching is followed by an optional “Discovery Bible Study”, where people discuss easy English translations of the Bible and how it applies to life. People of all faiths stay on for this group, and it's wonderful to be able to share God's Word openly with people from all over the world who are hungry to learn.

Please pray:

1. For our international students to improve their English, so they can integrate more easily into UK life.
2. For Jesus to open their eyes to His goodness and grace.
3. That people from many backgrounds will be drawn to Jesus and come to life in Him.
4. For more teachers and volunteers to join the ministry.

Contact: Andy Brims

Email: andy@croydonvineyard.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/croydonvineyardenglishschool



Tuesday 22nd March

Work with Elderly Folk

*“Even to your old age and grey hairs I am he,
I am he who will sustain you.”* Isaiah 46:4



Age UK described life during the pandemic as “crushingly hard” for many elderly folk who found the enforced isolation affected both their mental and physical well-being.

Churches have been working hard to reach out to the elderly and ensure their meeting places are secure, but it has been challenging. The lifting of Covid restrictions will hopefully allow for life and services to get back to normal.

Over the last year Council funding cuts have led to some vital services being closed, most noticeably the Parchmore Methodist Community Centre in Thornton Heath which offered a daily lunch club and various exercise classes and activities for over 70 elderly folk.

Please pray:

1. For our churches to find interesting and creative ways to engage with the older generation and to find the right balance between fellowship and outreach.
2. For lonely people to be drawn into communities of love and acceptance and for many of them to meet Jesus.
3. For churches to find new funding streams to support their services to the elderly.
4. For the senior members in your church fellowship and for your own church’s ministry to the elderly.

Wednesday 23rd March

International Needs (IN)



A worldwide development agency based in Croydon and working to help families suffering through poverty and crises to create a sustainable future. Through all we do, we seek to serve God and bring people the good news of Jesus.

It is difficult to even begin to describe the devastating impact of Covid across our partner countries. With medical, educational and public transport systems already underdeveloped, enforced lockdowns multiplied issues like mass unemployment, teenage pregnancy, domestic violence, child labour and hunger. Food supply systems were cut off and schools forced to close. It is still unclear when and how non-government schools will have sufficient resources to reopen.

Government-imposed lockdowns exposed the fragility of developing economies that depend on cross-border traffic for supplies and people travelling for business or tourism. The economic impact on developing countries has been estimated at \$220 billion.

Gradually churches are now starting to congregate again. Public transport, although still limited, is operating and borders are opening. Schools are also gradually allowing students back with many new regulations and guidelines.

We know the virus and its accompanying impacts, will be with us for a long time to come. We are working with our partners to help families build resilience for the future through safe education, increased health service capacity and creating new sources of income.

Please pray for God's favour and protection to be on our partnerships and our projects (see our website) and for the funding and resources needed to maintain them. Pray that we will be bringers of good news to these communities.

Contact: Email: inuk@ineeds.org.uk

Website: <https://ineeds.org.uk>

Thursday 24th March

The Link

Previously a weekly drop-in for homeless and vulnerably-housed adults, based at East Croydon URC; now a weekly soup kitchen and food and clothing bank.



Due to low rates of vaccinations among the homeless community, concerns around social distancing and a reduction in volunteers, we continue to provide takeaway fresh and non-perishable food, toiletries, clothing and bedding to around 15-20 people each Thursday evening from 6.30pm-7.15pm. Some of our guests own little more than the clothes they are standing in. Many have very troubled histories and it is only the transforming power of Jesus that can make a lasting difference to their lives.

We try to serve them as Jesus' representatives.

Please pray:

1. Thanking God that we can continue to serve the homeless in these ways and that more people have been referred to our service.
2. For those who are homeless and vulnerably housed to get safe accommodation.
3. For compassion, energy and creativity for those working with the homeless in Croydon, as they struggle with limited resources and have to make decisions about priorities.
4. For opportunities to share the good news of Jesus in a way that is relevant and accessible to our guests.

Contact: Pauline Miller

Email: reception@purleybaptist.org

Friday 25th March

His Grace Evangelical Outreach Food Bank



Reaching The Community - Equipping All.

Our food bank has been running for over five years. It was birthed out of our annual Christmas Street Feeding Outreach Project. Each year we would meet many in the community who were in desperate need of food and other life essentials to feed and take care of themselves and families.

We realised that as a church we needed to do more!

Initially we opened for one day a week, however at the height of the first lockdown we were operating six days a week, serving up to 500 families and single people, with queues forming outside the church as early as 11:00am and stretching down Beulah Road. While it was exhausting we soon discovered that the more food we provided to these families, the more we were being given: we were contacted by restaurant chains, churches, supermarkets, the police, schools, mosque and local people within the community offering lorries-full of food which they were unable to use. We became a big distribution hub across the borough.

We are currently back to operating one day a week, helping around 600 people. We provide bags, pre-packed with essential food provisions, and add various items of fresh and dry food, to meet the need of each individual or family, along with toiletries, household utensils, clothing, bedding, shoes, baby formula, food and nappies, washing powder, etc.

We have been blessed to be able to give people whatever they need.

God has been so good to us and we have many great testimonies to His amazing provision, just at the right time. We are so grateful to be able to partner with God in this work.

Please pray that God will continue to resource us to meet the needs we face as we represent Christ in the community, that we will adapt to welcome those He brings our way and for God's strength and blessings for our staff, volunteers and their families.

Contact: Pastor Bola Thomas **Tel:** 07946 546507

Email: hisgracefoodbank@hisgrace-evangelicaloutreach.co.uk

Saturday 26th March

Christians Against Poverty

A national charity partnering with local churches to bring hope and salvation to people caught up in debt and poverty.



Croydon churches offer the full range of CAP services:

Debt Centres offer personal debt help and advice.

CAP Job Clubs help people find meaningful employment.

CAP Life Skills provides practical help for those on a low income.

CAP Fresh Start supports people to break life-controlling habits.

CAP Money Courses teach simple budgeting skills.

CAP is more than just debt help. It takes a holistic approach, providing support all through a client's journey to becoming debt free. It equips them with the tools they need and builds their confidence to face the future. CAP supports clients affected by issues such as unemployment, evictions, addiction, mental and physical health issues, benefit reductions and price increases. Our supporters and volunteers are amazingly generous. We have been able to provide emergency food support; phone, gas and electric top-ups; school uniforms and small home goods for those who have had to move home. We continue to see clients go debt free and at a recent CAP event, four clients give their lives to Christ! The need in Croydon is increasing and we need more volunteers. It is an opportune time to share the gospel, bringing light and freedom into very dark situations.

Please pray for those who need help to have the courage to pick up the phone and seek support. For our clients to find the freedom and support they need and meet Jesus in the process. For God to resource us with good teams of volunteers and sufficient finances. For wisdom for the service managers and helpers.

Croydon Centre manager: Amanda Austin **Tel:** 07833 621926

Email: amandaaustin@capuk.org

Croydon South Centre Manager: Leo Cardow **Tel:** 07863 621721

Email: leocardow@capuk.org

Website: www.capuk.org

Sunday 27th March

London City Mission (LCM)

A team of urban missionaries seeking to encourage, support and equip local churches in sharing the love of God and the good news of the gospel with the least reached communities in Croydon.



London City Mission is passionate about serving those whom we refer to as the “least reached” – those least likely to hear the good news about Jesus because they don’t have a Christian friend and are not connected to a local church community. This includes the poor, the homeless and marginalised, Muslims and those from other religious backgrounds, diaspora communities, seniors, children and young people.

Historically London City Mission has sent out urban missionaries to do the work of mission. Today, although our passion and commitment to go to the “least reached” remains the same, our strategy has changed – we are now focused on partnering in mission with local churches. Our desire is to serve the local church, using our knowledge and experience to train and equip churches to intentionally build relationships and share the gospel with people in Croydon who are least likely to hear it.

Please pray:

1. For existing partnerships with local churches to be fruitful and for many “least reached” to find hope and belonging in Jesus this year.
2. For open doors into schools and opportunities to engage more children and young people with the good news of the gospel.
3. For God’s wisdom on how to best use our resources. We are a small team, committed to serving people’s practical needs wherever we can.

Contact: Simon Knightly, Team Leader

Email: simon.knightly@lcm.org.uk

Website: <https://www.lcm.org.uk/>

Monday 28th March

Kidz Klub

We believe God is answering the request for revival in the UK; it is something to do with children, and Croydon is a gateway into London.



Kidz Klub is a united effort of local churches working into schools and children hubs to bring as many children as possible under the sound of the gospel – in the borough of Croydon, other boroughs of London, the UK and beyond.

We are currently linked with 18 schools, which gives us the opportunity to reach many hundreds of children. Notwithstanding, there are many more children yet to be reached.

Join us to pray for every child in the UK, especially for those living in Croydon.

Please take a moment to send us a word of encouragement to let us know you're praying for us. God bless you.

Please pray:

1. For more local churches to join us and adopt their local schools.
2. For more schools to open up to us.
3. For overflowing joy to all as a generation that knows God emerges.

Contact: Joseph **Tel:** 07772 559797

Email: hello@innovationchurches.co.uk

Tuesday 29th March

5 Neighbour Initiative



Encouraging all churches in the borough to bless and get to know their five nearest geographical neighbour churches.

It's a well-established fact that all Christians and all Christian churches are part of Jesus' church and therefore belong to one body.

The 5-Neighbour Initiative encourages strong local links between neighbouring churches, whatever their heritages and affiliations, to bless and get to know each other and work together for the benefit of their local community.

Churches will be able to illustrate their unity to local residents with a common logo, posters, information and publicity, as well as locally co-ordinated activities. Imagine the impact if outside every church meeting place it said "Part of Jesus' church in Croydon" and showed the same poster! One church in Croydon with 230 meeting locations – the whole church presenting the same message.

Please pray:

Use the prayer that our Lord Jesus prayed in John 17:20-23 for us Christians in Croydon, and also:

1. That churches will indeed get to know and bless their five nearest geographical neighbour churches, irrespective of heritage or affiliation.
2. That such groups of churches will have yet more God-given ideas as to how to bring an increased blessing to the community in their area.
3. For a God-given strategy for communication and publicity across the borough, for when we re-launch post-Covid.

For more information (particularly on who are your nearest five churches):

Contact: Trevor Hill

Tel: 07879 486974

Email: ICTIAC1086@gmail.com

Wednesday 30th March

Food Stops

“For people who have more month than money!” Food Stop member

Food Stops are community food-sharing membership schemes that mainly use food that would previously have gone to landfill. For £3.50 a week someone in food need can buy about £20 worth of fresh, frozen, chilled and tinned food. Food Stops were set up in partnership with Croydon Council's Gateway Services team and the Fareshare food charity and are open to anyone finding it hard to make ends meet. Since March 2020 membership of these schemes has more than doubled. Due to the Council's financial crisis and then the pandemic, frontline officers are no longer able to be on-hand to offer help and advice. This is now being offered by the Food Stops through volunteer support workers who offer signposting and support.

The Fieldway Food Stop in New Addington was the first to open in 2017; now two churches also operate Food Stops to serve the needs of their communities: St Francis (Monks Hill) and Old Lodge Lane Baptist (Purley).

Please pray:

1. That Food Stop services will be easily accessible to those in need.
2. That supply will continue to meet the demand – God is so good!
3. For the safety and well-being of staff and members.
4. That essential “in person” support from Croydon Council officers will be re-established.

Contacts:

Old Lodge Lane: Tel: 020 8668 6260 **Email:** foodstop@ollbc.org.uk

St Francis: Michelle: **Tel:** 020 8657 7864

Email: stfrancisselsdon@gmail.com

For information about **Fieldway** please [click here](#).



Thursday 31st March

Croydon Association for Pastoral Care in Mental Health (APCMH)

Enhancing the quality of life, self-respect and spiritual growth of those affected by mental health difficulties.



Public awareness of the importance of good mental health has increased during the Covid pandemic. At APCMH we are working towards a better understanding of mental health, illness and distress and to remove barriers to acceptance and inclusion which are so often a part of our society. We are a Christian foundation but people of all faiths and none use our services.

Lockdowns during 2021 required us to cancel our entire regular programme of activities – drop-ins, groups, courses, church services and workshops. During these times volunteers were keeping contact with our regular service-users by phone. Anyone needing help could leave a message on our answerphone and we would get back to them. During 2022, however, we hope and pray that our full programme of services and activities will gradually be restored and that we will be able to meet the needs of our community touched by mental health issues.

Please pray:

1. For help and healing for all service users, particularly those who struggle with isolation.
2. For people to recognise their need of support and find courage to come to us.
3. For the well-being of our dedicated staff and volunteers.

Contact: Project Co-ordinator

Tel: 020 8654 4010

Email: admin@croydon-apcmh.co.uk

Website: www.apcmhcroydon.co.uk

Friday 1st April

Mahabba Network

Mahabba operates as a relational network, which gives people of Muslim heritage the opportunity to find and follow Jesus, by:



Encouraging prayer

Helping to grow regular, persistent prayer for Muslims.

Enabling Christians

Helping to see the opportunities, grow in confidence, build friendships and share Jesus with Muslims.

Envisioning the Christian community

Inspiring church leadership with what God is doing and helping churches see their own vision fulfilled for Muslims to have the opportunity to follow Jesus.

Engaging with Muslims

Helping local churches to build bridges with local Muslim communities in order to reach out in love, share Jesus and nurture Christ-followers who reach out in their own community.

Please pray:

1. Easter and Ramadan will coincide this year. Muslims respect people who have a faith. Pray for an opportunity to share yours.
2. For opportunities to demonstrate fairness and kindness to all Muslims.
3. With compassion for those who have fled from war or terror. Pray for healing from trauma and for safety.

Contact: Chas **Tel:** 07860 692053

Email: london@mahabbanetwork.com

Website: www.mahabbanetwork.com

Saturday 2nd April

Church Schools

There have been church schools in Croydon since the late 16th century when Archbishop John Whitgift opened a school for the poor of the borough.



Some years later, in 1714, Archbishop Tenison founded a school for some “ten poor boys and ten poor girls”, which is now believed to be the oldest surviving mixed-gender school in the world. The church has always been at the forefront of education, not just providing church schools for church kids, but opening doors of opportunity for those who were disenfranchised. Today on governing bodies and PTAs and in other community involvement in and around our schools, Christians in Croydon continue to be heavily committed to the education of our young people and to being salt and light within their sphere of influence.

Please pray:

1. Thank God for the many church schools in Croydon, of different denominations, both primary and secondary. May the name of Jesus be honoured through each one and may they be distinctive because of this.
2. That staff may teach well and work with God-given energy, patience, compassion and humility, and not be knocked off track by all that is happening at the moment.
3. That pupils and students may be given the strength and confidence they need to cope with the challenges imposed on them by the pandemic and the restrictions it has brought.
4. That God will meet the many financial and practical needs that families (and schools) have and help us to get through this year successfully. Please pray particularly for those due to have GCSE and A Level exams this year.
5. That many young people in the borough will come to know Christ personally and grow up with a deep and genuine understanding of God's purpose for their lives.

Sunday 3rd April

St Mildred's Drop-In

For the benefit of our guests.

Every first and third Sunday afternoon from October through to mid-July, St Mildred's hosts the Drop-In, providing comfort, support and nourishment for up to 70 homeless and needy guests. The sessions run from 1:00-3:00pm. We can usually provide showers, haircuts, second-hand clothing, new underwear, toiletries, a hot meal and drinks, reading material and social interaction. However, given Covid restrictions, we are currently only able to offer a hot meal indoors, although where there is a desperate need, showers and clean clothing will still be provided.

It has been our privilege to maintain contact with many of the guests after they have been housed and we recognise that they need our continuing support. We host a Christmas lunch on Christmas Day and a BBQ in the summer.

We are incredibly fortunate to have volunteers drawn from other churches, local residents and friends who support us, although these numbers have decreased since lockdown. We also encourage our ex-guests to become volunteers on a regular basis. Each one brings valuable talents, skills and energy that keep this vital resource thriving for our guests. On many occasions our ex-guest volunteers have been a useful resource to the new guests, offering advice, inspiration and hope, and massively enhancing the feeling of a familiar, safe and cosy environment for new struggling guests. Most of all we offer friendly and supportive company for those who want it. We listen!

Please pray for the wellbeing of our guests and volunteers. Some of the foreign guests have little or no support available to them. Pray they will be moved into housing and begin to rebuild their lives.

Contact: patriciahoward127@hotmail.com



Monday 4th April

Purley Cross Information Centre

*Open Monday-Thursday 10:00am-4:00pm,
Friday 10:00am-2:00pm.*



The Purley Cross Centre remains open during this unprecedented time, providing a limited service to clients and enquirers in the local community. While we continue to respond to requests for information, training, help, guidance and advice, online and by phone, our face-to-face services will also soon be returning.

Services currently being offered include IT training (online); 15-minute free legal and family law advice (consultation by phone); English classes for beginners, as well as socially prescribing and signposting clients to other agencies such as the Food Hub, Job Centre Plus and Citizens Advice.

Please pray:

1. That God will give us wisdom and guidance to sustain us and inspire us with a new vision as we move forward into the next season.
2. That our volunteers will feel safe to return when restrictions are relaxed.
3. That God will bless us, resource us and give wisdom in dealing with matters that are raised.
4. That the love of Jesus will be demonstrated and communicated through all our activities, resulting in positively impacted and changed lives.

Contact: Leo Cardow, Centre Manager

Tel: 020 8668 4189

Email: info@purleycrosscentre.org

Tuesday 5th April

Transform Croydon prayer

Croydon churches praying together.



Three times a year we draw together from across the denominations to pray, as one church, for our borough.

Over the years we have prayed for deepening unity, the NHS, the police, education, housing and many other aspects of Croydon life. We have had great feedback and seen God move powerfully as we have prayed in unity.

In 2020 when the UK went into lockdown, our meetings moved on to Zoom and we were very grateful for the technology that enabled us to stay connected. The most recent Transform Croydon meeting in February was our first in-person gathering for over two years. Around 50 people also joined by Zoom.

Please put the following dates in your diary:

2022 dates:

Wednesday 8th May

Wednesday 12th October

From 7:30-9:00pm (venues to be announced.)

Please pray for more individuals and churches to get excited about praying together, for our united prayer to influence and bless our borough and for God's Kingdom to come in Croydon.

Contact: Judi Lane, Administrator, Croydon Churches Forum.

Email: info@croydonchurch.org.uk

Wednesday 6th April

Leaders' Breakfasts

Fellowship and information.

Croydon Churches Forum usually hosts three breakfasts for church leaders in Croydon, each gathering between 40-60 leaders. These events allow ministers to keep up to date, share their stories and get to know and encourage one another. Ministers and priests can move jobs more frequently than many members of their churches. The average time spent in a church is around seven years so breakfasts provide a real opportunity for new clergy to meet other leaders and get involved in church unity as they arrive in the borough.



Occasionally we invite presentations from outside agencies wanting to address the wider church.

Last year all breakfasts were held over Zoom but this year the plan is to meet again in person.

2022 dates:

Wednesday 22nd June

Wednesday 23rd November

From 8:30-10:00am (venues to be announced.)

Please pray:

1. For a deepening of relationships between leaders and across church networks in Croydon.
2. For effective communication and sharing of information.
3. For new leaders to quickly find their feet.
4. For God to bless and resource your own church leadership team.

Contact: Judi Lane, Administrator, Croydon Churches Forum

Email: info@croydonchurch.org.uk

Thursday 7th April

Renew 23

“A safe space where it is OK not to be OK.”

There are many Renew Wellbeing cafés throughout the country providing café-style spaces run by local churches for people who might find a traditional setting overwhelming.



Renew 23 was set up in 2019 by Purley & Kenley Churches Together partnering with local health organisations. Each Thursday from 10:00am - 2:00pm, Purley Baptist, offers a place for people to come and sit quietly or to share their hobbies and activities. Occasionally we offer small workshops making jewellery and flower arrangements. Light lunches and refreshments are served. Twice during the day we invite people to join in a simple prayer time and all are welcome whether or not they have a faith. People find these times very helpful and peaceful but there is no pressure to attend. During the pandemic we met on Zoom and even though we are now meeting in person we are still holding zoom sessions on Fridays providing an extra time for people to chat and share. People who come through our doors say there is a lovely atmosphere present. Of course we know it's Jesus!

Please pray:

1. That our café will continue to be warmly received in the community and that the people who need this space will come.
2. That our hosts will be welcoming, easy to talk to and wise to know when to speak and when to listen, so that people will see Jesus in our words and actions and come to know him.
3. For more people to come forward to be hosts as our numbers are growing and for more churches in our area to think about opening these simply run cafés.
4. That the mental health professionals will point the right people to us.

Contact: Helen Harris **Tel:** 07891 328461

Email: helen_harris@btopenworld.com

Friday 8th April

PACT

(Prison Advice and Care Trust)



“I pray that we may never forget that all people, whoever they are and whatever they have done, are loved by God and called to His Kingdom. I commend to you the work of PACT, who in every aspect of their work, go beyond their duty in support of those in need of hope and a fresh start.” Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster

PACT is a national charity that supports prisoners, people with convictions, defendants and their families to make a fresh start. Very often in our world there is a huge focus on prisoners and on their victims. Family members of offenders are seriously affected in many ways but receive comparatively little attention.

One area which appealed to our Justice and Peace Group in the Parish of the Holy Family, Sanderstead, was providing help to the families of prisoners. Two of the PACT staff came and did some volunteer training with us. Unfortunately the pandemic has rather spiked our guns but two of us are now sufficiently trained to act as befrienders. This involves being allocated clients whom we ring weekly to offer our support. If more specialised help is required by our clients, we are able to liaise with PACT for advice.

PACT’s website provides a great deal of information about its work over a huge range of issues. We would love to hear from anyone interested in joining the work of prisoner family support.

Please pray:

1. For all in prison, their families and their victims and for ex-offenders.
2. For those who work to support them.
3. For more local volunteers to commit to working alongside PACT and other agencies that work in the area of prisoner support.

Contact: Gerry Murphy **Tel:** 020 8651 2510

Email: gsm.sjc@gmail.com **Web:** www.prisonadvice.org.uk/family-support

Saturday 9th April

Together Croydon Churches



“There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.” Acts 4: 12

Together Croydon Churches (TCC) represents the views and interests of Pentecostal/Black Majority churches in Croydon and is an affiliation of Croydon Churches Forum (CCF).

TCC takes the issue of praying for Croydon seriously and as a result, we see about 20 leaders meet every morning at 8:00am, Tuesday-Sunday, for an hour of prayer.

Please pray:

1. For the shadow of darkness that has caused our young people to engage in acts of violence to cease.
2. For God to bless and prosper key projects and initiatives planned for 2022.
3. For us to be effective in dealing with issues around poverty, inequality and mental health within our community.
4. For TCC to step up and take over certain services that benefit the most vulnerable in our community.

Contact: Damian Luke, Chair

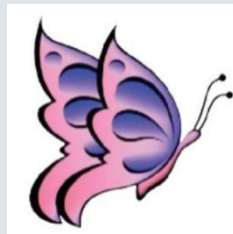
Email: dLuke@praisehouse.org.uk

Sunday 10th April

Woodside Bereavement Service

(The Listening Ear)

“Bind up the broken-hearted...comfort all who mourn...bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes...joy instead of mourning...praise instead of a spirit of despair.” Isaiah 61:1-3



Woodside Bereavement Service (WBS) has been operating in Croydon for 30 years as a supportive Christian-based bereavement service for those experiencing severe or prolonged shock or depression arising from bereavement and loss. It also serves to educate and increase awareness of the nature of grief and bereavement. Support is provided through counsellors who are trained specifically in grief counselling. We are a volunteer-based, free service offering one-to-one and group bereavement counselling to adults at our centres in South Norwood and Selsdon. Children and young people are seen in their schools or at our centre. Through strict compliance with all Covid-related guidance, in 2021 we were able to provide full counselling services for the significantly increased numbers of client referrals arising from the pandemic.

Please pray:

1. With thanks to God for the generosity of our volunteers and of the community organisations which support WBS.
2. That those in the local community who are experiencing loss and change in their lives may find the help and support they need.
3. For volunteers to come forward to train as WBS counsellors and for our ongoing financial needs to be met.
4. For individuals in the community who would be interested in acting as trustees for WBS.

Contact: Tel: 020 3256 2009

Email: wbs@thelisteningear.org.uk

Monday 11th April

Growbaby

"I needed clothes and you clothed me."

Matthew 25:36



Growbaby is a ministry of Grace Vineyard Church, Purley, providing pre-loved clothes, equipment and toys for children from birth to five years, to any who have need. No referral is needed. We support refugees, asylum seekers, trafficked victims, those on benefits and those with no recourse to public funds. Due to the pandemic, we have seen more and more families unable to provide for their children's basic needs.

When we opened eight years ago we operated out of a garage. For the last couple of years we have been given use of the most amazing space in Montpelier Church, South Croydon. This has been such a blessing to us and our clients, and a real testimony of churches working together. Once the lockdown ended, we were able to serve together again, although with everyone masked and socially distanced so that we keep our ministry a safe space for all.

God is good and we are blessed to serve in this ministry, as we have the opportunity to pray for every client and share the love of Jesus with them. We have been overwhelmed with donations and we ask that clothes be freshly washed, neatly folded and packed separately into the different age groups, and that toys and equipment be in excellent condition.

Normal opening hours are Tuesday mornings in term time from 9:00-9.30am for donations and 9:30-11:30am for clients.

Please pray

1. That our team grows, as we are inundated with requests and want to give quality time to our clients.
2. For generous donations of quality items in excellent condition that continue to meet our clients' needs.

Contact: Gill Visser **Tel:** 07565 415297 **Email:** gill.visser7@gmail.com

Rach Brooks **Tel:** 07958 138475 **Email:** rjbrooks@blueyonder.co.uk

Tuesday 12th April

Spurgeon's College

Preparing for ministry, mission, and leadership.

Established by the Victorian preacher Charles Haddon Spurgeon in 1856, the college remains one of the leading theological colleges in the UK with a global reach and proud heritage of academic excellence, research and a diverse student body. It is a registered Higher Education Provider and currently delivers academic programmes from undergraduate to doctoral degrees. The college is also a centre of excellence for counselling courses.



We offer a range of courses suitable for Christians seeking to deepen their understanding of God's word or to be trained to serve in their local setting. "Equipped to Minister" is one of our most popular courses, specifically designed to resource and equip lay leaders in their local context. Our new MA in Digital Theology is the first degree course of its kind in the world, offering a unique opportunity for theological reflection on digitality and its implications for the contemporary church.

We have recently partnered with Liverpool Hope University to offer BA (Hons) degrees in Business Management and Marketing, International Relations and Social Policy, Media and Communication and Creative Writing.

The college has invested significantly in its IT infrastructure and digital capacity and we have seamlessly adapted to digital delivery of our programmes and pathways, ensuring that teaching and learning are uninterrupted and students are able to complete their assignments.

Please pray for our students as they study and serve in their placement churches; our graduates serving God locally, nationally and globally; and our college as it continues in its mission to train men and women for Christian ministry, mission and leadership in the contemporary world.

Contact: Tel: 020 8653 0850

Email: enquiries@spurgeons.ac.uk

Website: www.spurgeons.ac.uk

Wednesday 13th April

WCMC Drop-in Centre

Serving the homeless and hungry.

The drop-in has been running for over seven years, and was originally set up to provide a hot meal and a safe place for the street homeless on a Wednesday.

Since the start of Covid, services have been cut back, and it has evolved to become a take-away service and food bank. We collect produce from Fareshare and local supermarkets and food outlets on a Monday and the hot meals are ready for collection from outside the church from 11:00am on a Wednesday.

Our service is also used by folk who are lonely or vulnerable, along with increasing numbers of families, particularly during the school holidays. These families are able to collect food parcels which include sandwiches, frozen or chilled food and vegetables – whatever has been donated by the supermarkets. Clothing, toiletries and household items are also given out as they become available.

We try to help people access the help they need. Many of the family members we meet don't speak English, so staff and volunteers will help them with practical tasks like filling in forms. They are also in cohorts with the Croydon GP Network social prescribing team.

Please pray:

1. For the safety and well-being of all who have to live on the streets.
2. For those suffering from mental illness, substance abuse and domestic abuse to access the help and support they need.
3. That we may demonstrate the love of Jesus through all we do.

Contact: Alberta Larkai-Doherty

Email: alberta.ld@yahoo.com

Mobile: 07515 041234 / 07392 945249



WEST CROYDON METHODIST CHURCH

Thursday 14th April

Daniel Spargo-Mabbs Foundation



In January 2014 Dan went to a party and made a fatal decision to take the drug ecstasy with a group of friends. He died two days later from multiple organ failure.

Dan was from a strong Christian family, a member of the youth group at Emmanuel Church, South Croydon, and a popular student at Archbishop Tenison's School. His parents, Fiona and Tim, felt that if this could happen to him, it could happen to anyone, and their determination to do all they can to prevent it led to establishing a drugs education charity in his name.

They work with young people, families, professionals and teachers in schools, colleges and communities across the UK through an evidence-based drug and alcohol education programme, and a powerful play, "*I Love You, Mum - I Promise I Won't Die*", published by Methuen Drama, which has toured professionally since 2017.

This is not where they would have chosen to be, but God has opened doors for their message from the very beginning.

Please pray

1. For the continued growth of their drugs education work.
2. For the play in 2022, touring schools across the UK and becoming a GCSE Drama set text.
3. For Fiona's book for parents, "*I Wish I'd Known*", to bless and help other families.

Contact: Amanda Shortland

Email: admin@dsmfoundation.org.uk

Website: www.dsmfoundation.org.uk

Friday 15th April

Good Friday Walks of Witness

In various locations across the borough local church groups traditionally unite for a walk of witness and a short open-air service.

For the last two years, with the nation in lockdown or facing Covid restrictions, all walks were cancelled.

In their place last year two area groups produced online presentations instead.

Both were excellently produced and well-received.

Although it is looking increasingly likely that most restrictions will be lifted by Easter, at the time of writing no firm decisions have been taken for this year's walks.

Please pray:

1. For all churches and area groups in Croydon as they witness to "Christ Crucified" in their community this Easter. Whether they go out, to walk with their crosses and gather in the town centre for a united service, or stay in and offer a church service online, ask God to strengthen their commitment to unity and inspire them with creative ideas.
2. For many people in Croydon this year to be drawn to the cross, challenged by the Easter message and respond to the invitation of Jesus.



Saturday 16th April

ACT (African Child Trust)

We are a Croydon-based charity with a vision to support the education of disadvantaged children and orphans in women-led households in Africa.



In order to enable children to reach their potential in life, we are empowering women and widows in need, through training, to generate income to sustain their families. Our aim is to break the cycle of poverty among poor people in Africa. The community is central to our approach and we work alongside partners that are best placed to recognise the households in most need in their community.

The Covid pandemic has impacted every corner of the globe in many ways, and our work has been no exception. Our partners across the eight African countries where we work have been proactive and innovative in responding to the needs posed by the pandemic. They adapted the support to families, providing food packages containing staples and non-perishable food and supplying helpful materials like transistor radios, batteries and workbooks to help the younger children gain access to some of the government's school programmes on radio. Thankfully, none of the children or women we support fell ill to the virus.

2021 was a highly successful year for ACT. More than 600 youngsters, including 166 new children, and nearly 500 widows in Africa benefited directly from our work over the course of the year. Praise God.

Please pray:

1 For the poor to have access to education, training and opportunities to break free from the cycle of poverty.

2 For God to provide, bless and multiply our resources to stretch beyond what we could ask or imagine.

Contact: Kunle **Email:** office@africanchildtrust.org.uk

Website: www.africanchildtrust.org.uk

Sunday 17th April

Easter services

“Jesus...accepted the shame of the cross as if it were nothing...because of the joy that God put before him. And now he is sitting at the right side of God’s throne.” Hebrews 12:2



Let’s worship together – if you know this song, please join in:

In the darkness we were waiting without hope, without light
'Til from Heaven You came running, there was mercy in Your eyes
To fulfil the law and prophets, to a virgin came the word
From a throne of endless glory to a cradle in the dirt
Praise the Father, praise the Son
Praise the Spirit, three in one
God of glory, Majesty, praise forever to the King of Kings
To reveal the kingdom coming and to reconcile the lost
To redeem the whole creation You did not despise the cross
For even in your suffering You saw to the other side
Knowing this was our salvation Jesus for our sake You died...
And the morning that You rose all of Heaven held its breath
'Til that stone was moved for good for the Lamb had conquered death
And the dead rose from their tombs and the angels stood in awe
For the souls of all who'd come to the Father are restored
And the church of Christ was born then the Spirit lit the flame
Now this gospel truth of old shall not kneel, shall not faint
By His blood and in His name, in His freedom I am free
For the love of Jesus Christ who has resurrected me

Songwriter: Geoff Bullock

(Watch the video here)

Hallelujah! Praise forever to the King of kings.

Let’s pray for our services today to be full of resurrection joy and power, and for the Gospel flame to blaze brightly from churches and homes across our borough.

Croydon Churches Forum

c/o Purley Baptist Church

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Purley

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