



CHEAM METHODIST CHURCH

Cnr Church Hill Road and Chatsworth Road,
Cheam, Sutton SM3 8LJ

NEWSLETTER APRIL 2016

Minister: Rev Nik Wooller – 01372 743182
revnik@live.co.uk

Hall Bookings: Audrey Saunderson – 020 8644 6911
www.cheammethodistchurch.org.uk

Church Charity Number: SI 2655/2007

SERVICES AT CHEAM METHODIST CHURCH

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Preacher</i>	<i>Service</i>
3 April	10.30am	Rev Mark Wakelin	2 nd Easter
10 April	10.30am	Rev Ray Norgate	3 rd Easter
17 April	10.30am	Rev Nik Wooller	4 th Easter Holy Communion
24 April	10.30am	Mr Nick White	5 th Easter
1 May	10.30am	Rev Nik Wooller	6 th Easter Holy Communion

FOR YOUR DIARY

APRIL

- Tues 5th 2.30pm Women's Friendly Hour – Suki: *The History of Jerusalem*, a talk
- Mon 11th 8pm Leadership Team Meeting at Audrey Saunderson's home, 105 Abbotts Road, Cheam
- Tues 12th No Cheam Tots – parent/carer and toddler group
- Tues 12th 2.30pm Women's Friendly Hour – Shirley Quenby and her son, Roger: *Down's syndrome*, a talk
- Wed. 13th 8pm House Group at Audrey Saunderson's home, 105 Abbotts Road, Cheam
- Sun 17th 9.45am Prayer Meeting
- Tues 19th 10-11.30am Cheam Tots – parent/carer and toddler group
- Tues 19th 2.30pm Women's Friendly Hour – Christine Rippon: *Music Around the World*
- Sun 24th 12 noon Church Annual General Meeting
- Tues 26th 10-11.30am Cheam Tots – parent/carer and toddler group
- Tues 26th 2.30pm Women's Friendly Hour – Stella Wallace and the Silver Bells
- Fri 29th 8pm House Group at Mary Freeman's home, 14 Priory Crescent, Cheam

All events at Cheam Methodist Church unless shown otherwise

Deadline for May Newsletter, Friday 22 April with contributions to Tony Brett Young on abrettyoung@hotmail.com

A MESSAGE FROM REV NIK WOOLLER

The media is frequently dominated by sad news.. Over recent weeks we have had a constant stream of sorrow from around the world: of people being killed and injured as a result of war and conflict; of the suffering caused by drought and storm - and now news of bombings in Belgium with the tragic loss of life, young and old. Our own Church community has also had its fair share of sadness recently.

How should we as Christians respond?

For me, one of the most helpful passages in the Bible is Jesus' sermon in the synagogue at Nazareth, where he read and preached on words from the prophet Isaiah (*Luke 4: 14*). Jesus identified himself as the bringer of good news to the poor; the liberator of the captives; the person who bound up the broken hearted; and the bringer of joy to the sorrowful. These are values, which Christ's followers, too, are called to live.

We can begin in our home communities where there are many sad and lonely people who need our love. Further afield the ways in which we can respond individually are more limited, but we can give from our own resources and through our prayers. The important thing is that we stand beside those who are suffering and do respond in some way.

Christians are also called to face injustice and cruelty head-on, as Jesus did. For those following his way it may lead, as it did for Jesus, to suffering, even death. We live in a world where human self-interest is still a powerful force which needs to be confronted daily with the power of God's love. However, we do not embark on this task in our own strength, but in the light of our Easter faith which shows how God, through Jesus, has defeated the powers of selfishness, wickedness and hate. This is the supreme message we can take to the world, together with our practical help.

I conclude with the final verse of an updated version of Brian Wren's hymn *Christ is alive let Christians sing*:

*Christ is alive and comes to bring
good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring
with joy, with justice, love, and praise.*

Verse 5 (c) Stainer and Bell Ltd

God Bless

Nik

FROM THE SENIOR STEWARD

A Happy Easter to you all and I'm sure, like me, you're now looking forward to some warm, sunny summer days.

What a busy few weeks it's been with all our services and activities leading up to Easter Day – Ash Wednesday, Messy Church, Maundy Thursday, Walk of Witness and Good Friday service, decorating the church and Super Soup lunch for *Christian Aid*. We now have a time to reflect and catch our breath until the Spring Fair in May. Don't forget if you have any garden-related items, do bring them along.

The past few months have been very difficult for many of us in this church, but we must remember that God is with us in our glad days and our sad days.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone for their kind messages and prayers on the death of my aunt which were a great comfort. It has been a sad time, but the Leadership Team has made it much easier for me by stepping in and taking over many of my duties.

As ever



FAMILY CIRCLE

As we begin our prayers for those in distress that we know or do not know, let's pause to pray for ourselves:

'We ask the Lord to bless us this Easter, that it may be a time of grace for us, a time of the Lord's loving-kindness, a time of fresh hope and joy. May the Lord be considerate to all our prayers and concerns, and grant his favour to us and to all those we hold dear. Amen.' Firstly, our deepest sympathies and condolences go to Chris and Corinna Kingswood on the tragic loss of their baby daughter, Isabella, late on Saturday 12 March. We also think of Margaret and Brian and all Corinna's family. Please continue to uphold them in your prayers each day and night during a very difficult time.

We have heard from Rev Michael Meech that his wife Wendy has died after a long illness. Michael was our minister in the mid-1970s and again from 1979-81. Wendy was always very supportive of Michael's ministry and is fondly remembered. Michael has also been ill and has full-time care at home. Please remember him and the family in your prayers.

Sally Brett Young is staying with Cynthia and Tony at present and recovering slowly from her operations. We pray each day she will be stronger and ask for complete healing for her. Many thanks for your continued prayers.

Helen has finished her chemotherapy treatment and the result has been very positive. However she will need to continue with other forms of anti-cancer treatment. Once again, many thanks for your continued prayers and concern for her. We thank God for all the hospitals who treat all the different types of cancer, for the Royal Marsden and all the research that goes into finding cures. Bless all the consultants, surgeons, doctors, nurses and counsellors who take personal and wonderful care of each patient.

Many friends have visited Mary Bugden in St Helier and she is having physiotherapy every day. Unfortunately she does suffer with a lot of pain, but hopefully her fracture will heal well. I understand that Mary may be home after Easter with a care package. Alan is being looked after by his carers. It is good he is able to attend Church and the monthly lunch at North Cheam Baptist Church. Thanks to the drivers that collect him.

Please pray for our members who are unable to attend worship, including Sarojini Ponnuthurai after her knee operation, and Irene Smith who has recently been confined to her nursing home and is unable to attend church. Bless Grace Hine and her family. It is good that Grace is able to come to church and the Women's Friendly Hour but neither Joyce nor Bert Mealing are able to attend worship. Pray for members of the WFH, for Joan Mckrell who recently moved to a flat in Wallington and had a hip replacement shortly afterwards. Please pray for healing for Joan and for happiness in her new home with care for her at hand.

Remember too Lea Bradshaw who is housebound but looked after by her two sons. Pray, for Elizabeth Baldwin's son Mike, and for others who find each day difficult. My friend's husband Graham has now been discharged from hospital and is recovering well.

Pray for our minister Nik, for all the Circuit ministers during Easter, for our local preachers and those training at present. Thanks to all, who visit, make phone calls, take flowers to all those who are unwell or going through difficulties and for all who generously give

flowers and those who arrange them each Sunday.

And finally, our congratulations go to Gem Wason who celebrated her 80th birthday on Thursday 31 March. She was planning to join her family and friends to commemorate the occasion during the following weekend.

Mary Freeman

CHURCH NEWS AND NOTICES

Messy Church

Once again we thoroughly enjoyed our Palm Sunday Messy Church afternoon with crafts, cake and worship. It was attended by many of our regulars together with some new faces. Thank you to all who helped during the afternoon and as always there is a selection of Margaret's photos on the noticeboard. The Easter cross, made by Peter Delafond, and woven with coloured ribbons, was a feature of our Easter Day morning service when the congregation was invited to attach their special prayers to the nails on the cross.

Jane Wasbrough

Easter Experience 2016

The highly successful, interactive and dramatic production of the events of Holy Week was performed again this year in three churches – Sutton Trinity, Carshalton Methodist Church and North Cheam Baptist Church. Three different casts performed to children from 23 primary schools who visited the nearest venue to their school for an Easter Experience. Together with the Sunday afternoon previews which preceded the schools week, a total of 28 performances took place. Sutton Schoolwork's Primary worker, Sarah Webb, coordinated the rehearsals, liaised with the schools and took part in all three venues. This initiative, which began 10 years ago, already has schools asking for bookings for next year and to date has been seen by over 13,000 children and hundreds of teachers and parents from the London Borough of Sutton.

Spring Garden Fair – 21 May

It's time to turn our attention to preparations for our next church fair. The theme is anything associated with gardens. There is a table in the transept to receive your donations – absolutely anything that has a garden connection – garden equipment and tools, garden toys, garden plants, garden furniture, garden ornaments etc. (look in your shed, garage and greenhouse). Other donations might include games/books/puzzles/bric-a-brac/raffle prizes. For a full list of ideas there is a list on the notice board at the back of the church. However we are hoping that the main attraction will be lots of horticultural items, especially planted pots and hanging baskets and trays of bedding plants. So take some cuttings and let's get potting.

Jane Wasbrough

Christian Aid

A number of Church members took part in the Count Your Blessings fund raising scheme in aid of *Christian Aid* during Lent this year. This was an opportunity to reflect each day on the blessings in our lives and to give, act and pray for communities in need. Over seven weeks participants were asked to remember the needs of people living in more difficult circumstances, especially those in Bangladesh, the focus country for Christian Aid Week 2016. The idea behind Count Your Blessings is to read the daily reflection about a challenging issue, and make a related donation – for example by giving 40p for each day in one week when they ate meat or another source of protein. On another day the voluntary penalty was 10p for every year of education completed by participants, and yet another was 50p for every tap and toilet in the home. One penalty was a particular challenge for Jane, given her passion for craft work: to give 5p for each handmade item you own. If you took part please pass on your donation for Christian Aid to me.

On Easter Saturday, 16 people sat down to a Super Soup lunch prepared by Sue Worthington and Penny Ball. This raised £33 for Christian Aid, and together with the Count Your Blessings money will be included in our overall Christian Aid Week (15-21 May) collection for this year.

Cynthia Brett Young

Circle the City

There's another opportunity to support the work of Christian Aid by taking part in the charity's Circle the City event on Sunday 22 May between 12.15 and 5pm. The walk offers the opportunity to explore some of the city's most historic buildings and hidden gems. This family-friendly event will be packed with activities, challenges, pop up exhibitions, musical performances, guided tours and many more adventures along the way.

If you'd like to take part you'll need to register and you'll receive a sponsorship pack with all the information needed. The walk starts at St Mary-Le-Bow Church (Cheapside, EC2V 6AU). For information contact ctc@christian-aid.org or tel. 020 7523 2417

Sunday collections

Totals of recent collections were: 28 February, £159.50; 6 March, £266.60; 13 March, £181.20; and 20 March, £260.29.

If you pay tax but don't belong to the church's envelope scheme, please consider joining as it offers the church really valuable tax benefits, amounting to thousands of pounds each year. Charles Ponnuthurai, our Gift Aid Secretary, can give advice about this.

Flower fund

Donations recently received for the church's flowers were:

6 March, Christine Rippon in memory of her son Mark; 13 March, Jenny and Peter Delafond; 20 March, Easter Lilies; and 27 March, Jennifer Evans in memory of her father.

Please write your name on the flower calendar if you would like to make a donation for flowers on a special occasion and give the money to me.

Audrey Saunderson

Befriending scheme

In her message this month Nik writes of the challenge to us to follow Christ's call, as his followers, to help people in our own communities, the many sad and lonely people who need our love. As if to answer this call Sutton Community Works is currently establishing a befriending scheme for people in the borough aged over 65.

Recently I took part in the first training session attended by volunteers from a number of Sutton's churches, all keen to be involved in the scheme. It will offer friendship on a long-term basis to older people who may recently have lost a spouse or whose family may have moved away, people with mobility problems, who've lost their hearing or vision, or who may simply have lost confidence to venture out. There are probably many many hundreds of such people in the borough and the scheme aims to give them a new lease of life in their later years. Similar schemes elsewhere have tapped into an area of enormous need, and it's certain Sutton will be no different.

After the normal checks, and interviews, those who attended the training will be linked with someone who has been recommended by Social Services, a GP service, or other professional organisation.

If you'd like to know more, or to be involved, talk to me or contact Sutton Community Works on info@suttoncommunityworks.org

Tony Brett Young

Christian Institute plea

The Christian Institute (CI) which works to be an 'influence for Biblical truth in an increasingly secular world' has drawn attention to government plans to give Ofsted the power to carry out extremism checks on church youth works. Under the plans, Ofsted would be given a new role of assessing whether out-of-school teaching complies with the Government's vague and subjective 'British values' agenda. Any place which provides instruction to under 19-year-olds for more than 6 hours in any week would be covered. This would catch various forms of church youth work, such as holiday Bible clubs, church weekends and summer camps.

An animation produced by the Christian Institute, *Don't close my Sunday school*, tells the story of six-year-old Poppy and what the CI says could happen to her and her church if the Government implements its proposals. You can watch it on this link:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=6rY82Hg889g&feature=youtu.be

The CI adds: "Churches do not radicalise children. The Government's counter-terrorism efforts need to be properly targeted against genuine terrorist threats. Please continue to pray that these intrusive proposals will be dropped."

The Christian Institute's website is: www.christian.org.uk

Rochester Cathedral tapestry

Jennifer Delafond writes: "*On a recent visit to Rochester Cathedral, I came across a display of tapestry, amongst which was the following prayer. I found both the words and the intricate needlework by textile artist, Jacqui Parkinson, very beautiful, and I wanted to share the prayer with you:*"

PATTERN OF PRAYER

No choirs of angels
No round of applause
No hip-hip hallelujahs
No song and dance
Be still
In secret
Draw with words and silence
The shape of your heart
This is prayer

Within this framework lay down
The fragile pieces of your life's tapestry
Some beautifully made
Some tattered, torn, frayed
Some precious beyond measure
Some worthless rags
The intricate designs
The random scraps

They are the patchwork of who you are
Every piece sewn together
By the unbreakable golden thread
Of forgiveness, mercy, grace
Woven from the love of God
Put aside the shadows of the future
Unseen, uncertain, unknown and unknowable
Live in the shining light of the present
And find peace in eternity
Be still
In secret

Draw with words and silence
The shape of your heart
Touch the power and the glory
For ever and ever,
Now
This is prayer

WHO'S WHO

Minister

Our minister is Rev Nik Wooller who can be contacted on 01372 743182 or by email: revnik@live.co.uk Nik is available by appointment to anyone who wants to talk about pastoral or other matters, including baptisms, weddings and funerals.

Church Leadership Team

The Church Leadership Team has been elected by church members to be responsible for the day-to-day running of the church and to help develop policy. Its members are Rev Nik Wooller, Senior Steward David Worthington (8644 5160), Mary Freeman (8644 3999), Brian Kingswood (8641 0016), Eric Randall (8873 0171), Jane Wasbrough (8641 4304), Audrey Saunderson (8644 6911) and Tony Brett Young (8652 7622).

Hall bookings

Audrey Saunderson (8644 6911)

Safeguarding representative

Tony Brett Young (8652 7622)

The *Newsletter* Editorial Team

The content of the Newsletter is the responsibility of the Church Leadership Team. Articles, news. Ideas and comments can be emailed to Tony Brett Young at a brettyoung@hotmail.com or you can ring him on 8652 7622.