



# **CHEAM METHODIST CHURCH**

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

## **NEWSLETTER**

**APRIL 2017**

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

**Hall Bookings:** Audrey Saunderson – 020 8644 6911

[www.cheammethodistchurch.org.uk](http://www.cheammethodistchurch.org.uk)

**Church Charity Number:** SI 2655/2007

### **SERVICES AT CHEAM METHODIST CHURCH**

<i><b>Date</b></i>	<i><b>Time</b></i>	<i><b>Preacher</b></i>	<i><b>Service</b></i>
2 April	10.30am	Mrs Judith Wakelin	Lent 5
9 April	10.30am	Rev Nik Wooller	Palm Sunday
13 April	8.00pm	Rev Nik Wooller	Maundy Thursday
14 April	10.00am	Rev Nik Wooller	Good Friday
16 April	10.30am	Rev Nik Wooller	Easter Day
23 April	10.30am	Rev Dave Dickinson	2 <sup>nd</sup> Easter
30 April	10.30am	Mr Richard Smith	3 <sup>rd</sup> Easter

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### APRIL

Tues 4 <sup>th</sup> 10-11.30am	Cheam Tots – parent/carer and toddler group
Tues 4 <sup>th</sup> 2.30pm	Women's Friendly Hour – A talk by Kathy McLenaghan: <i>What a wonderful world</i> with photos entitled <i>Biblical Creation</i>
Wed 5 <sup>th</sup> 8pm	House Group at Audrey Saunderson's home, 105 Abbots Road, Cheam
Sun 9 <sup>th</sup> 3pm	Messy Easter followed by a short service
Tues 11 <sup>th</sup>	No Cheam Tots
Tues 11 <sup>th</sup> 2.30pm	No Women's Friendly Hour
Thurs 13 <sup>th</sup> 8pm	Maundy Thursday Service
Fri 14 <sup>th</sup> 9.30am	Walk of Witness from North Cheam
Sat 15 <sup>th</sup> 10am	Decorating the Church for Easter Service
Sat 15 <sup>th</sup> 12 noon	Super Soup in aid of Christian Aid
Sun 16 <sup>th</sup> 9.45am	Prayer Meeting
Tues 18 <sup>th</sup>	No Cheam Tots
Tues 18 <sup>th</sup>	No Women's Friendly Hour
Sun 23 <sup>rd</sup> 12 noon	Church Annual General Meeting
Tues 25 <sup>th</sup> 10-11.30am	Cheam Tots – parent/carer and toddler group
Tues 25 <sup>th</sup> 2.30pm	Women's Friendly Hour – Colin Blake's Musical Afternoon of CDs
Fri 28 <sup>th</sup> 8pm	House Group at Mary Freeman's home, 14 Priory Avenue, Cheam

### MAY

Mon 8 <sup>th</sup> 8pm	Leadership Team Meeting at Audrey Saunderson's home
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**All events at Cheam Methodist Church unless otherwise stated.**

**Deadline for the April *Newsletter* is Friday 21 April.**

## A MESSAGE FROM REV NIK WOOLLER

Dear Friends,

As I write this letter, there is within me a feeling of panic at how fast Easter is approaching. It feels this year that we have been almost catapulted from Christmas into Lent with alarming haste.

I always find Holy Week a testing time for my emotions as we journey from the celebrations of Palm Sunday, through the agonies of Maundy Thursday and Good

Friday, the emptiness of Holy Saturday and the strange dawning and hope of Easter Day.

This is the same mixture of emotions that I have experienced over the last few months: celebration, agony, emptiness and hope. While my remaining time with you is speeding ahead, many other things in my life seem to be travelling very slowly, much slower than I had anticipated, I have become very impatient with certain situations and have been reminded of a boss of mine telling me when I got impatient over something we were trying to achieve: "This is a marathon, Nik, not a sprint"

In the modern world we get so used to immediate results. I have seen pictures of the new babies of friends just minutes after they were born. There was a time when a parent wouldn't see the pictures until the fairly lengthy process of developing and printing had happened. Today, those pictures arrive on my computer screen from the other side of the world. Life is instant and we tend to live life as a sprint rather than a marathon.

But during our life's marathon there will be days when we are making good progress and other days when we feel almost as if we are travelling backwards while everyone around us speeds past. Life isn't always what it appears to be on the surface.

While Jesus was facing the agony of what was ahead of him, his friends were anticipating something very different. I can't start to imagine what was going on in his head and the torment he must have felt on Palm Sunday as he rode into Jerusalem to the cheers of the gathered crowd. This greeting reflected all their anticipation of an end to Roman rule and the hope they placed in this king who would lead them to freedom.

My prayer at this Easter time is that as we walk through Holy Week once again, we recognise the things that are going on in each other's lives, the concerns, the pains and the torments that we cannot possibly see on the surface. How often do we hear the response: "Oh, I'm fine" when we ask "How are you?" and once this exchange has happened we feel we can happily get on with whatever we are doing. So I ask that during this season of Easter if we do hear that response from friends, family members or each other let us take a few moments to hold that person in prayer so that God will be close to them, whatever is in their heart.

God Bless.

*Nik*

## MINISTERIAL NEWS

Our search for a new minister to replace Rev Nik Wooller has been successful and we're delighted to announce that our good friend Rev Gill Long has agreed to become the Minister at Cheam Methodist Church from September. She will share duties with the recently-appointed local preacher, Mr John Dawson, who will be our part-time lay preacher. Further details will be given by the Circuit Superintendent, Rev Dave Dickinson, at the service he is leading on 23 April.

## FAMILY CIRCLE

Firstly congratulations to Christine Rippon's son Paul and to Julie on the birth of their baby daughter, Ella, on 18 March in Switzerland at 8.25am local time. Ella weighed 2.95 kg (about six and a half pounds). Our congratulations go also to the proud grandparents, Christine and Peter. Ella is now home, and the family were able to see the baby via video link.

We have had further good news that Katie Rippon came home on 23 March after a long spell in hospital. Katie has had wonderful care from doctors and nurses and regular visits from family. Many thanks to all for their prayers for Katie's recovery. Katie is having physiotherapy, but is glad to be home, and able to enjoy the food she likes. We send our best wishes to all the family and for Katie's ongoing good health and pray that she continues to improve each day.

Alan Bugden is also now home after his hip operation and having assistance until he becomes more mobile. Please pray for Mary and Alan and all the carers who look after them. We ask your prayers too for those not able to worship with us, including Joyce and Bert Mealing, and Frank Kemp. We also pray for those recently bereaved, and those who are concerned about loved ones. We ask for your continued prayers for our daughter Helen who continues to have treatment every three weeks, and to others in a similar situation. Pray for all those who are doing important medical research.

Grateful thanks to all who visit, take flowers, and make phone calls to those who are unwell. Please pray for our minister Nik and her family, the Leadership Team, all our circuit ministers and preachers, and we ask blessings for all our members and those who contribute to make our fellowship and church caring, welcoming and supportive.

**Mary Freeman**

## CHURCH NEWS AND NOTICES



In the weeks preceding Easter, since 2006, *Easter Experience* has been presented to thousands of children and accompanying adults from Primary Schools throughout the Borough of Sutton. Initiated by Sutton Schoolswork, the Christian charity working in the borough's Primary and Senior Schools, it is a live-drama presentation of the last week of Jesus in and around Jerusalem. It provides the opportunity to witness the events of the week and to ask questions of the characters involved.

This year, the 12th, the production has been performed in three churches over three weeks with three different casts. At Carshalton the cast of 13 was made up of

volunteers from 11 different churches and different denominations. Feedback from the schools was enormously encouraging as they felt their pupils had a unique opportunity to learn more about Holy Week. In fact many schools have already indicated that they wish to reserve a place next year.

**Jane Wasbrough**

### **Ryelands MHA**

Please make a note that the Summer Fair at Ryelands is on Saturday 20 May from 2-4pm. Programmes cost £1 each and will be available to buy shortly.

**Jenny Delafond**



Our next Messy Church here at Cheam is on Palm Sunday 9 April at 3pm and all are welcome.

**Messy Church** enables people of all ages to belong to Christ together through their local church. It is a way of being church which is particularly suited to families, but welcoming to all, and is aimed at people who have never belonged to a church.

### **Messy Church....**

- ...gets 500,00 people involved each month
- ...takes place in more than 30 countries worldwide
- ...is found in a variety of Christian denominations
- ...is for people of all ages from 0 to 100 years old

As the Anglican Archbishop, Justin Welby, put it: "This is not church for children. It's church for church. It's church for everyone...I want to encourage you to never be bound by the way we've always done it ...

it's a circle of all ages meeting together to engage in who God is in a it's a circle of all ages meeting together to engage in who God is in a way that works for them."

To find out more, visit [messychurch.org.uk](http://messychurch.org.uk)

### **Garden fair**

We are once again making plans for our next church fair, on Saturday 3 June. As with last year, the focus will be on gardens and there will also be our popular cream teas. So, please put the date in your diary and begin to hunt out anything that has a garden theme. Also, it's the time to begin taking cuttings from your existing garden and house plants. The plants, flowers, hanging baskets and patio tubs were really popular last year and practically sold out. There will be more details in next month's *Newsletter* but you may bring any saleable non-perishable items from today.

### **Sunday collections**

Recent Sunday morning contributions have been: 5 March, £161.50; 12 March, £224.50; 19 March, £240 and 26 March, £187.70. That's a total of £813.70, down compared with March last year, but the figure for the first quarter is holding up against the level of collections for the same period in 2016.

### **Flower donations**

And for flower donations the recent contributions for the Church's floral displays have been: 5 March, donation; 12 March, Brian and Margaret Kingswood in memory of their granddaughter, Isabella; 19 March, Penny and Michael Ball for their wedding anniversary on 17 March; and 26 March, Christine Rippon to mark the safe arrival of her granddaughter, Ella.

Many thanks to Pauline Cleall for the donation she sent to me for flowers to be displayed in our Church. Her name will appear in the flower donations list for April.

And can I remind you about the plate for donations for the flower fund at the back of the Church.

**Audrey Saunderson**

### **East Africa appeal**

Our Minister Nik recently spoke movingly of the desperate drought and famine facing the people of East Africa, and appealed for support for the appeal launched by All We Can, the Methodist Relief and Development charity. Members of the congregation spontaneously donated £95.50, and the money has been sent to All We Can for their work.

**Cynthia Brett Young**

### **Vouchers appeal**

If you have any spare Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers Jennifer Evans is collecting them for her granddaughter. Please pass them on to Jennifer or Audrey Saunderson.

### **Quiz and Cake evening**

I would like to say a huge thank you and say how overwhelmed and grateful I am after my fund-raising evening last month. The final figure raised from the evening was £675. That, together with family donations, means that I have now completely paid for my trip and flights. Thank you all so much for your support. If you would like anymore information on the trip please do ask me. Thank you all again

**Joe Bullen**

<b>FEATURE</b>
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In a recent sermon focusing on 'Love', our Minister Nik explained that the Greeks used different words for different kinds of love. We thought it would be worth repeating them:

**Storge** - family love. It's what you would feel toward your children or your parents.

**Eros** - the love you feel toward your husband or wife. It's where we get the word erotic.

**Phileo** - a close friendship, or brotherly love.

**Agape** - an act of the will, not of the heart. It's not an 'if' or 'because' love. For example: 'you know I'll love you if you do this' or 'I love you because of that'. This type of love is not based on the actions of others. It's not the love of family, friend or lover. And this is the type of love that Jesus commands us to show to others even our greatest enemy.

**Jane Wasbrough**