



CHEAM METHODIST CHURCH

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

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2016/JANUARY 2017

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>
4 Dec	10.30am	Rev Nik Wooller Gift Service	2 Advent Holy Communion
11 Dec	10.30am	Mr Keith Halstead	3 Advent
18 Dec	10.30am	Rev Nik Wooller Carol service	4 Advent
24 Dec	11.15pm	Rev Nik Wooller	Christmas Eve
25 Dec	10.30am	Rev Nik Wooller	Christmas Day
1 Jan	10.30am	Mrs Judith Wakelin	1 Christmas
8 Jan	10.30am	Rev Nik Wooller	Covenant Sunday
15 Jan	10.30am	Ms Nellie Showers	42 Ordinary
22 Jan	10.30am	Rev Gill Long	43 Ordinary
29 Jan	10.30am	Mr John Wilson	44 Ordinary

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DECEMBER

Sun 4th 3pm	Messy Christingle
Mon 5th 10.30am	Community Awareness Group, SeeAbility visit
Tues 6th 10-11.30am	Cheam Tots – Parent/carer and toddler group
Tues 6th 2.30pm	Women's Friendly Hour – Tony Brett Young,
Wed 7th 8.00pm	House Group at Audrey Saunderson's home, 105 Abbott Road, Cheam
Sun 11th 7pm	Street carol singing
Tues 13th 10-11.30am	Cheam Tots – Parent/carer and toddler group
Tues 13th 2.30pm	Women's Friendly Hour – Stella Wallace, Silver Belles
Sun 18th 12.30pm	Christmas lunch
Mon 19th 7pm	Street carol singing
Tues 20th	No Cheam Tots
Tues 20th 2.30pm	Women's Friendly Hour – Christmas carols

JANUARY

Tues 3rd	No Cheam Tots
Tues 3rd 2.30pm	Women's Friendly Hour – Members' afternoon
Wed 4th 8pm	House Group at Audrey Saunderson's home
Tues 10th 10-11.30am	Cheam Tots – Parent/carer and toddler group
Tues 10th 2.30pm	Women's Friendly Hour – Rev Nik Wooller
Tues 17th 10-11.30am	Cheam Tots – Parent/carer and toddler group
Tues 17th 2.30pm	Women's Friendly Hour – Rev Roger Hoath
Thurs 19th 8pm	Circuit Treasurers' meeting, St Marks, Gt Tatts
Sun 22nd 6.30pm	Churches Together in S&C – united service, Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, CMC
Tues 24th 10-11.30am	Cheam Tots – Parent/carer and toddler group
Tues 24th 2.30pm	Women's Friendly Hour – Margaret McAllister, Keep Fit
Fri 27th 8pm	House Group meeting at Mary Freeman's home, 14 Priory Ave, Cheam
Tues 31st 10.11.30am	Cheam Tots – Parent/carer and toddler group
Tues 27th 2.30pm	Women's Friendly Hour

All events are at Cheam Methodist Church unless otherwise stated.

A MESSAGE FROM REV NIK WOOLLER

Television advertisements for Christmas have already been filling the screens for what now seems like weeks. Over the past few years many seem to have a new selling angle on Christmas.

At first you get the impression that they could be advertisements for the Samaritans... sad depressing background music accompanying a story line of stress,

pressure and isolation. But don't worry, shopping in our shop will mean you don't totally crack under the pressure.

It leaves me wondering: how can we redeem Christmas from all the stress and anxiety; surely there has to be another way?

I think the answer lies in Advent. Advent is the season of hopeful waiting, eager anticipation, joyful preparation of God coming amazingly into our lives.

As I was reminded at *d-church* this week (*d-church* is a worshipping community that meets on Facebook once a month) Advent isn't Lent.

In Lent we have a spring-clean and clear-out of rubbish. Advent on the other hand is about getting your home ready for a new arrival, a special guest, for Jesus the Son of God. Lent is a season for confession and giving things up; Advent is a time of preparation for a great celebration.

Advent prepares us for welcoming God afresh into our homes, our work, our schools, our everyday lives. It reminds us that Christmas is a time for rejoicing, a time for hoping, a time for God breaking in.

There is much in our world and in our lives that may depress us, much more than the Christmas shopping. But the great news is that a Son has been born for us; Jesus is coming to show us just how much God loves us and as he comes he will transform our lives - as he did for Mary and Joseph, Shepherds and Kings. I hope that this year we will all be able to truly capture the spirit of Advent.

May I take this opportunity to thank you all for your love, support and prayers during my recent surgery and recovery, and to wish you a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Nik

MINISTERIAL NEWS

Minister, Nik, has announced details of her next appointment from September 2017. She'll be moving to Scotland to take up an exciting new position based in the Angus, Perth and Dundee Circuit. Half of her time will be spent travelling round Scotland as a mission co-ordinator starting small groups with the challenge of reaching nominal Methodists and other non-churchgoers. The rest of her time will be devoted to pastoral responsibility for congregations in Blairgowrie and Perth. Nik is looking forward to her new role which she believes is taking the Methodist Church back to its roots when the Wesleys travelled extensively around the country setting up seed groups to help spread the Christian word.

Meanwhile, our search continues for a new minister to succeed Nik. A potential candidate was recently interviewed but it was mutually agreed that this appointment would not provide a suitable match for the Cheam and Epsom Churches. Thanks to David Worthington and Jane Wasbrough for all they did in preparing for the interview at such short notice, and to others who took part and who provided lunch on the day.

FAMILY CIRCLE

Thank you so much for all your prayers for healing, comfort, support and strength for those friends at Church and members of our Women's Friendly Hour. Pauline Jackson's husband, Barry, died peacefully in hospital on 4 November. Pauline and her family were with him, and our prayers of comfort are with them all. The funeral service taken by our Minister, Nik, was due to be held at the North East Surrey Crematorium on Thursday 1 December. During Barry's working life he was a local milkman and later a postman and known to many people in our local community.

We offer our continued prayers of comfort for Elizabeth Baldwin who recently sent us the following letter:

'I would like to thank so many friends for their messages and cards following the death of my son. Also, thank you all for the very warm welcome shown to me on my return to Church after an absence of six weeks. Elizabeth'

We ask your prayers for anyone who has experienced a recent bereavement.

Bob and I are so grateful for the love and support we have had for our daughter Helen during the past weeks. After a week in Mayday hospital, she had an operation on 15 November and came home the following day. She was in further pain after that, and saw her consultant who has prescribed a new course of treatment which she is due to start shortly.

Alan Bugden was taken to St Helier Hospital on 14 November with pain and breathing difficulties. At the time of writing he was due to have a heart test before being able to return home. Please pray for Alan's wife, Mary, who apart from carers is currently on her own.

We ask your prayers too for Gareth Wasbrough who is recovering from an appendix operation. I have now heard from Joyce Nicolas's son that Joyce is home from St Helier and is being visited by carers regularly every day. She will need physiotherapy to help her to walk.

We welcome back our minister Nik who preached at Cheam on 27 November – her birthday. Continued prayers for her recovery and strength as she ministers to us again. Our other members who are unable to be with us are Joyce and Bert Mealing, Frank Kemp, and Irene Smith. Irene recently celebrated her 96th birthday, but the news is that she now needs constant care. Her daughter Marilyn is full of praise for the support Irene receives at Orchard House in Sutton. Thanks to all who visit, take flowers or make phone calls.

Finally, during a time of anxiety, I looked out of my kitchen window and saw that my yellow roses had bloomed - in November - and this has encouraged and lightened each day. I know and feel God has been with Bob and me and will continue to strengthen us and keep us well for whatever lies ahead.

Mary Freeman

CHURCH NEWS AND NOTICES

Christmas Fair for Christian Aid

The wonderful fellowship of our Church is never better displayed than through the contributions everyone makes to the success of our fairs and other fund-raising events. And our November Christmas Fair was no exception. Thank you to

everyone who supported this event which raised the magnificent sum of £645.86 for Christian Aid. Of this £101.50 came from the sale of programmes, and £30 from donations.

Greetings

We recently received the following interesting email from David and Nina Lamb:

Greetings from two past members of North Cheam Methodist Church who were also leaders for several years of the APEX Youth Club. On 17 November we celebrate our Diamond Wedding Anniversary, 60 years since we were married in the Church by the Rev Leonard P. Barnett and the Rev John Dykes.

Some members may recall ten years ago we marked our Golden Wedding Anniversary with a wonderful reunion at the Sunday service at the Church. It was attended by past members of the Youth Club, some coming from as far afield as Australia and Canada. Afterwards Mary Freeman arranged for us to have a barbecue in her garden - on one of the hottest days of the year.

We have such happy memories of the Church; we met at the age of 15 when the Methodist Youth Club challenged Cheam Baptist Church to a cricket match in the park. Three Methodist boys (David being one of them), invited three Baptist girls to their Youth Club the following Friday. Two marriages ensued from that, ours and Frank Morris to Sheila Ball. As a matter of interest your Church's history [available on the CMC website] mentions that Derek and Audrey Hooker were the first couple to be married in the Church in 1954 – well, we soon followed and believe we were the second. We send all good wishes to you all. David and Nina.

Church website

Our website passed another milestone recently with its 12,000th visitor. Our *Newsletter* is always posted on the site, along with details of Church contacts, activities, services and events. From time to time we also post sermons of our own, and visiting, preachers and recently, in response to a request to one of our local preachers, Mrs Hannah Chun, we received her following charming response:

It was a great privilege and blessing to lead worship at Cheam. Each time my family and I have been to your church, we have sensed a very warm, welcoming and inviting spirit. I am grateful for the support and encouragement received. I have attached the sermon as promised. Many thanks, Tony, and blessings on your week, Hannah

SeeAbility news

Our good friends from SeeAbility will be making one of their regular visits to our Church at 10.30am on 5 December. Church members are invited to join us to make them as welcome as always. And just a reminder of the Wild Cats' Christmas Jamboree which will be held on 14 and 20 December at 2pm. Full details were in the November *Newsletter*.

Flower donations

Donations for the Church's flowers during the past month were: 6 and 13 November, Pauline Cleall; 20 November, Penny Ball in memory of her Mum, Miriam; 27

November, Christine and Peter Rippon on the occasion of their 10th wedding anniversary.

When writing your name in the flower calendar would you please give your donation to me. And can I remind you of the decision at the recent Church Council meeting to seek further donations for the flower fund by placing a plate at the back of the Church for ad hoc contributions.

Audrey Saunderson

Sunday collections

Recent Sunday morning contributions have been: 30 October, £221.25; 6 November, £162.80; 13 November, £283.00; 20 November, £149.00, and 27 November, £181.50. If you'd like to be involved in the envelope scheme, through which we receive valuable Gift Aid, please see Charles Ponnurathai.

News from Ryelands

Many thanks to all who bought programmes or came along to support the Christmas Fair at Ryelands on Saturday 19 November. The Fair was very successful and raised £2,364 which included £154 raised on the cake stall run by Cheam and helped by contributions from members at St George's.

Jenny Delafond

Methodist heritage

Jenny Delafond has drawn our attention to a most interesting publication, *Methodist Heritage News*, which for those with an interest in Methodist history, is full of stories and anecdotes about our proud traditions. It's available in a hard copy, but can also be read online on www.methodistheritage-news-autumn-2016.pdf

The Autumn edition has stories about Rev Herbert Butler Cowl who was one of the first Wesleyan Army chaplains in the Great War to receive the Military Cross for 'exemplary gallantry'; a new series of children's guides to Methodist heritage sites; and about the New Room in Bristol, the most-visited Methodist heritage site in the UK.

FEATURES

Family corner

We're always looking for items for the Newsletter and are pleased to share happy family news on a regular basis. Here's some news from Audrey Saunderson:

My son Michael Saunderson and his wife Ruth will shortly be performing with the Heart and Soul Choir to raise money for the group's chosen charity, Winston's Wish (www.winstonswish.org.uk) which helps bereaved children rebuild their lives. The event, which will be a great evening of family entertainment, will be held at Bourne Hall in Ewell on Friday 9 December at 7pm. Tickets cost £10 and can be booked online at www.theultimatevoice.org. A poster about the event can be seen at the back of our Church. Many of you will recall that Michael and Ruth were both active members of our Church's Apex Youth Club for some time.

WHO'S WHO

Minister

Rev Nik Wooller. Telephone: 01372 743182; 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

Church members elect the leadership team to be responsible for the day-to-day running of the church and to help develop policy. Supporting Nik are David Worthington (8644 5160), Mary Freeman (8644 3999), Brian Kingswood (8641 0016), Jane Wasbrough (8641 4304), Audrey Saunderson (8644 6911), Charles Ponnuthurai (8644 3367) and Tony Brett Young (8652 7622).

Hall bookings

Audrey Saunderson 020 8644 6911

Safeguarding representative

Tony Brett Young 020 8652 7622

The *Newsletter* Editorial Team

The content in the *Newsletter* is the responsibility of the Church Leadership Team. Articles, news, ideas and comments can be emailed to Tony Brett Young at abrettyoung@hotmail.com or you can ring him on 020 8652 7622.

Deadline for the February *Newsletter* is Friday 20 January.