



CHEAM METHODIST CHURCH

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

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 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

FEBRUARY SERVICES AT CHEAM METHODIST CHURCH

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Preacher</i>	<i>Service</i>
7 February	10.30am	Ms Nellie Showers	45 Ordinary
10 February	8.00pm	Rev Nik Wooller	Ash Wednesday
14 February	10.30am	Rev Nik Wooller	1 st Sunday of Lent
21 February	10.30am	Rev Nik Wooller	2 nd Sunday of Lent
28 February	10.30am	Rev Roger Hoath	3 rd Sunday of Lent

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FEBRUARY

Tues 2 nd 10-11.30am	Cheam Tots – parent/carer and toddler group
Tues 2 nd 2.30pm	Women’s Friendly Hour - Rev Rosemary Richter
Wed 3 rd 8pm	House Group Meeting at Audrey Saunderson’s home, 105 Abbotts Road, Cheam
Tues 9 th 10-11.30am	Cheam Tots – parent/carer and toddler group
Tues 9 th 2.30pm	Women’s Friendly Hour – Members' Afternoon with pancakes
Wed 10 th 8pm	Ash Wednesday Service
Tues 16 th	No Cheam Tots group
Tues 16 th	No Women’s Friendly Hour meeting
Wed 17 th 7.45 for 8pm	Rescheduled Church Council Meeting
Thurs 18 th 10am-8pm	Epsom Book Fair, Epsom MC
Fri 19 th 10am-8pm	Epsom Book Fair, Epsom MC
Sat 20 th 10am-4pm	Epsom Book Fair, Epsom MC
Sun 21 st 9.45am	Prayer Meeting
Tues 23 rd 10-11.30am	Cheam Tots – parent/carer and toddler group
Tues 23 rd 2.30pm	Women’s Friendly Hour – Pauline Botting from Sutton Street Pastors
Fri 26 th 8.00pm	House Group Meeting at Mary Freeman’s home, 14 Priory Road, Cheam

All events at Cheam Methodist Church unless shown otherwise

A MESSAGE FROM REV NIK WOOLLER

It seems Christmas is only just over and yet preparations for Lent are well under way. Lent is often perceived in a very negative way, as a season of giving things up, fasting and depriving ourselves of any pleasure. In some churches this is exacerbated by an almost morbid focus on the passion of Jesus for the better part of six weeks.

But traditionally Lent has been a season of preparation not deprivation, a season of study, prayer and fasting, a season designed to prepare us so we will be in a better state to celebrate Jesus as risen Lord and his victory over sin and death on Easter Day.

While it is true that Jesus’ own temptation in the wilderness is often the starting point for our own self-examination, let’s not fall into the trap of seeing it as God’s

way of trying to make us miserable. Rather let us see it as the place from which we daily seek to walk in God's way, rather than our own, and follow Jesus' example and teaching.

Lent should be a very positive and creative season where our faith and commitment constantly grows - like a Spiritual Spring. If facing and resisting temptations to go our own way seems difficult, let us not forget that just as God sent his angels to minister to Jesus, we too are never left without the help, encouragement and support of God's angels (in human or heavenly form!) and of the Holy Spirit. Lent should be an exciting time as we grow and prepare to acclaim Jesus again as our risen Lord, in our lives and communities.

So rather than focusing on giving something up, how about doing something new or extra, daily doing something extra to help and encourage others or joining in something like *Christian Aid's* "Count your Blessings" which brings aid to those who are really in need.

May this Lent be an enriching season for you and a blessing for others through you.

Nik

FROM DAVID WORTHINGTON, SENIOR STEWARD

That was the Christmas that was, and believe it or not in just a few days from now it will be Ash Wednesday. Oh how time flies.

At our last leadership team meeting it was decided that the normal Family Fun Day (which was planned for Monday 15 February) would be cancelled this year due to limited time for preparation. It was also felt that we should re-think the way the whole day operates. There will still be a Messy Easter afternoon though, on Palm Sunday, 20 March.

As noted elsewhere in the *Newsletter* we have also arranged two training sessions on the use of the church's new audio-visual system. These are Saturdays, 6 and 27 February at 10.00am. If you are interested in learning how to use the system and to be part of the operating team, please let me or one of the stewards know as soon as possible.

A few advance dates to note for your diary:

Church Council Meeting, Wednesday 17 February

Mothering Sunday, 6 March

Palm Sunday/Messy Easter, 20 March

Good Friday Walk of Witness, 25 March at 9.30am from North Cheam

Church decoration and super soup lunch in support of *Christian Aid*, Saturday 26 March

Easter Day, 27 March

All the Easter services will be led by Nik.

As ever,



CMC GOOD NEWS REPORT

Every year each church in the Circuit provides a 'good news' update to share with others. The following is an edited version of the report produced for the February Circuit meeting by Mary Freeman:

“Cheam Methodist Church celebrated its 80th Church Anniversary on 7 June with the unveiling of three paintings by artist Shirley Veater depicting the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. After the service we shared an excellent lunch together. During the Women’s Friendly Hour Anniversary in May, a new pulpit Bible was dedicated in memory of Mrs Doreen West. A new pulpit bible stand was given in thanksgiving of members’ golden weddings. A new audio visual and music system has been installed to enhance our worship.

“Our outreach activities have included regular Tots Meetings on Tuesdays (which have resulted in several baptisms), Family Fun Days during February and October half term holidays, and Messy Church events, each bringing into the church many families, enjoying craft and other activities. Easter, Summer and Christmas services have also been well attended by families, and special thanks are due to our minister Nik, who leads this Parents’, Carers and Toddler group with help from members of the Church.

“We have had a busy year fund raising for *Christian Aid*, *Crisis*, and *Action for Children*. Our Christmas services and street carol singing were especially successful raising a record amount for *Action for Children*. Donations were also given to various charities before Christmas. The Women’s Friendly Hour’s charity for the year is the Ministry Aviation Fellowship, and in addition donations are given to speakers for their own charities.

We continued our support for Ryelands, helping at their coffee morning and summer fair. In addition members volunteer weekly at SeeAbility, the charity in Leatherhead for people with visual impairment and other disabilities. We invited friends from SeeAbility to the church for refreshments during the summer and for songs and carols before Christmas. As their special Christmas charity the 6th Formers from our neighbours, Cheam High School, made up beautiful hampers for families and individuals and gave them to us to distribute. Needless to say, all the recipients were delighted with the gifts.

“Sutton Schools Work is based at our church, and arranges the Easter Experience, which tells the story of Jesus from Palm Sunday to the Resurrection, to many hundreds of primary school children each year. Two of our members again took part in last year’s production. For the first time last year, members helped prepare for Epsom Book Fair, which raised valuable funds for our church.

“Our house groups, pastoral care, visits to housebound, cleaning and decorating of the church and hall, bring many volunteers from our members. Special thanks to our Minister Nik for all her excellent and thought provoking services, her skills in craft and cooking.”

FAMILY CIRCLE

And more from Mary:

First I would like to thank all our members and friends for their generous giving before and over the Christmas period. I hope you all had a peaceful Christmas and I wish everyone a very happy new year. The amount raised for *Action for Children* from the street carol singing and gift service was an excellent £716.96. A letter of thanks is on the notice board at the back of the Church. Thanks to all the generous givers in our neighbourhood who enjoyed the carols we sing in our community each year.

Thank you for your continued prayers for our members and their families who are going through difficult times. Please pray for Elizabeth Baldwin's son Mike, for Sally Brett Young as she faces a second operation. Our daughter Helen's chemo treatment has been successful with one more to go. We ask your prayers for Helen's daughter Tilly who broke her wrist when she fell in the school playground. Pray for my friend's husband who is in St Helier Hospital after collapsing and scalding himself. Bless all the doctors, nurses, surgeons and NHS staff for their skill and care in looking after their patients. We also pray for those who have recently been bereaved, those whose loved ones are seriously ill. We continue to pray for the housebound, Mary Bugden, Lea Bradshaw and any others we do not know. Pray for all the carers who look after the elderly and frail. Pray for Grace Hine and Irene Smith and their families.

Please pray for Sutton Schools Workers, for all the cast of the Easter Experience visiting primary school children in the borough, and for teachers and parents who accompany the children, that they will be inspired by the true meaning of Easter and for the Holy Spirit to reach out to them. Pray for our Minister Nik, her family, and ministers in the circuit, local preachers and those at present going through training. Please let me know any special news items you have – joyous or otherwise – so we can include them in our prayers.

Mary Freeman

CHURCH NEWS AND NOTICES

Audio-visual equipment training

Training is planned in February for those who wish to learn how to operate our new audio visual equipment. The sessions will be led by our resident expert, Nik, and the first session, at 10.00am on Saturday 6 February, will mainly cover music, and the second, also at 10.00, on 27 February will cover use of the equipment for visual displays. Please let David Worthington or any of the leadership team know if you wish to attend.

***Crisis* at Christmas**

Thank you so much to everyone who donated to *Crisis* at Christmas. A total of £172 has been sent to the charity.

This Christmas, *Crisis* opened its doors to homeless people in London, Edinburgh, Newcastle, Birmingham and Coventry. Each guest received three nutritious hot meals, a chance to shower, freshen up and get clean clothes, and a bed for the night, if needed. They were also offered a health check and treatment from a doctor, optician or dentist, advice on housing and employment, expert help with mental health and addiction problems, plus an introduction to *Crisis'* year-round services for training. Importantly they were offered support for the year ahead. More than 4,000 people received help at Christmas, and hundreds of volunteers give their time over the holiday period to provide all the services. *Crisis* relies on their volunteers and gifts from people like us.

Count Your Blessings for Lent 2016

This year *Christian Aid's* Count Your Blessings features stories from Bangladesh, the focus country for this year's *Christian Aid* Week. This is a great opportunity to concentrate your prayers during Lent on a particular community and at the same time raise valuable funds for *Christian Aid*. The reflections start on Ash Wednesday (10 February) and go through to Easter weekend. Count Your Blessings leaflets are available at the back of the church and your donation should be given to me please.

Cynthia Brett Young

Home collection boxes

The amount raised in 2015 from the *Action for Children* League of Light home collection boxes was £386. That's an increase of 13% over last year's amount. Thank you for your continued support, and if you would like a collection box please let me know.

Pauline Jackson

Students' generosity

Sixth form students from Cheam High School decided they wanted to do something special for their local community for Christmas - and as a result their generosity benefited dozens of needy people.

The students collected together large quantities of foodstuffs and toys to produce a range of Christmas hampers for families in the area. And as we're next door they offered them to us.

Our minister, Nik, said because of our links with the community the students asked the church to distribute the hampers to needy local families to help make their Christmases a little brighter.



Nik said: "We handed out all the hampers to local families who were enormously moved by the students' kindness. There were tears when they heard where the hampers had come from, and when they realised that others were thinking of them at what for some people can be a really difficult time.

"Some of those to benefit included people who were struggling with health issues, or having financial difficulties. The children of one family were facing their first Christmas after the death of their mother, and there was someone else looking after a disabled spouse."

Nik praised the 'extraordinary generosity' of the students and said they had demonstrated the true spirit of Christmas with their gifts.

Tony Brett Young

Women's World Day of Prayer

The theme of this year's Women's World Day of Prayer will be the women of Cuba, at a time when the country is normalising its relations with its neighbour, the United States, after many decades of isolation. The service will be held at 10.30am on Friday, 4 March, at the Salvation Army Hall at 45 Benhill Avenue, Sutton.

Sunday collections

Totals of recent collections were: 29 November, £204.70; 6 December, £184.30; 13 December, £214.10; 20 December, £170.82; 27 December, £166.51; 3 January, 246.30; 10 January, £216.60; 17 January, £179.10; and 24 January, £260.00.

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 December, Pauline Cleall; 13 December, Wendy Green in memory of her mother's birthday; 20 December, Roy Collis in memory of Vera's birthday; 27 December, Flower Fund; 3 January, Bert and Joyce Mealing in memory of her daughter Rosemary; 10 January, Flower Fund; 17 January, Flower Fund; 24 January, Flower Fund; and 31 January, Bob and Mary Freeman.

We're looking for new contributors to become involved in the Flower Fund scheme by writing on the flower calendar and giving a donation to me for the flowers which are displayed in the church each Sunday. Then if you wish the flowers to go to anyone special after the service please speak to Mary Freeman or Sue Blake so they can be passed on to that person.

Thank you to all those who regularly donate to the Flower Fund.

Audrey Sanderson

SeeAbility news

- Christmas visit to CMC

Many thanks to all who helped give our friends from SeeAbility a warm welcome to the church on 7 December. It was good to have the group with us again. Everyone enjoyed tea or coffee and cakes before joining in with singing several Christmas carols, which included a solo by Patsy, one of our guests. We were pleased that Nik was able to join us. The group appreciated the hospitality shown to them and handed us a Christmas card and note of thanks. Please take a look at the small display of photos on the board at the back of the church.

Jenny Delafond

- Wild Cats performance

Once again The Wild Cats Dramatic Society at SeeAbility triumphed with two performances of their Christmas pantomime *Lambs in the Wood*. The group were pleased to be able to use the latest projection technology and sound effects to highlight the history behind the nursery rhyme characters they were portraying in the play.

The second performance at the Millennium Centre was particularly memorable for having the biggest-ever audience. Many thanks to those CMC members who continue to support the performances.

Jane Wasbrough

Help needed for Ryelands

We've received the following appeal from Sue Laflin, the Volunteer Co-ordinator at Ryelands:

Ryelands, in Wallington, is an MHA care home with 50 residents, including some with dementia. We try to enhance the lives of our residents by providing:

- Someone to chat to
- Company
- Activities
- Outings

But we need more volunteers who will be given appropriate training and support. Our volunteers are really appreciated by residents and staff. If you have a spare hour or two, please come and join us.

For further information, please contact Sue Laflin. Volunteer Co-Ordinator, at Ryelands, 15 Beddington Gdns, Wallington SM6 0JF, Ph: 020 8647 6387, or mob: 07912 423973 or Email: ryelands.sue@gmail.com;

The story of Ryelands

Sue has given us the following potted history of Ryelands:

Ryelands was the first MHA care home for older people, opened in 1945. It was the inspiration of the Rev Walter Hall and Mrs Hilda Bartlett-Lang. Hilda's father was Joseph Rank, the Methodist benefactor, whose trust provided the funding when 15 Beddington Gardens (a large house) was bought for £2,700.

Before the advent of the welfare state, the post-war option for the elderly was generally a large dormitory in a workhouse. A smaller home run by a matron, such as Ryelands, was an extremely attractive alternative and a visionary departure from the norm.

When Ryelands opened there were 12 residents, and only women were eligible at

that time. Over the years, Ryelands has been redeveloped and expanded several times. The current building was completed in 2004 and includes a dementia wing, Brooklands, named after one of the home's volunteers, Douglas Brooke. In total, there are 50 residents, all in en-suite rooms. We aim to meet the needs of each resident, both physically and spiritually.

The MHA Mission is "To improve the quality of life for older people, inspired by Christian concern." That remains the same today, just as it was when Ryelands was first opened.

WHO'S WHO AT CHEAM METHODIST CHURCH

Minister

Rev Nik Wooller. Telephone: 01372 743182

Email: revnik@live.co.uk

Nik is available by appointment to anyone who would like to speak to her 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 helping to develop policy. Its members include Rev Nik Wooller and the Senior Steward, David Worthington.

The full team is: Rev Nik Wooller, 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).

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.

Please note that the last date for information to be included in the next *Newsletter* is Friday 19 February.