



CHEAM METHODIST CHURCH

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

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 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>
5 Feb	10.30am	Rev Mark Wakelin	5 Ordinary Holy Communion
12 Feb	10.30am	Rev Nik Wooller	6 Ordinary
19 Feb	10.30am	Rev Nik Wooller	7 Ordinary
26 Feb	10.30 am	Mr Richard Smith	8 Ordinary

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FEBRUARY

Wed 1 st 8pm	House Group at Audrey Saunderson's home, 105 Abbots Road, Cheam
Mon 6 th 8pm	Leadership Team meeting at Audrey's house
Tues 7 th 10-11.30am	Cheam Tots – Parent/carer and toddler group
Tues 7 th 2.30pm	Women's Friendly Hour – Kat Mills, singer accompanied by CDs
Tues 14 th	No Cheam Tots
Tues 14 th	No Women's Friendly Hour
Wed 15 th 7.45 for 8pm	Church Council
Thurs 16-18 th	Epsom Book Fair at Epsom Methodist Church
Sun 19 th 9.45am	Prayer Meeting
Tues 21 st 10-11.30am	Cheam Tots – Parent/carer and toddler group
Tues 21 st 2.30pm	Women's Friendly Hour – Rev Rosemary Richter
Thurs 23 rd 8pm	Circuit Treasurers' meeting, Great Tatts Methodist Church
Fri 24 th 8pm	House Group at Mary Freeman's home, 14 Priory Avenue, Cheam
Tues 28 th 10-11.30am	Cheam Tots – Parent/carer and toddler group
Tues 28 th 2.30pm	Women's Friendly Hour - Jo Hedges, Sutton and South East Water, Talk on <i>Water Aid</i>

MARCH

Wed 1 st 8pm	Ash Wednesday Service
Thurs 2 nd 7.30 for 8pm	Circuit Meeting at Wallington Methodist Church
Fri 3 rd 10.30am	Women's World Day of Prayer, Salvation Army Hall, Benhill Ave, Sutton

All events at Cheam Methodist Church unless otherwise stated.

A MESSAGE FROM REV NIK WOOLLER

Minnie Louise Haskins is a poet that some of you may know. She was a woman with a long and varied career. During her life she worked in India and the East End, both in industrial welfare and academia. She wrote books and poetry.

She lived a life of service. We see this early on when in 1903 she worked for the Springfield Hall Wesleyan Methodist Mission. Then in 1907 she went to Madras with the Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society to serve in the Zenana Mission to women. To help fund this mission, she wrote a book of poetry entitled *The Desert* which included the poem *God knows*. This clearly touched a chord, becoming a favourite of many people, including King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother.

The poem includes these lines:

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."

And he replied:

"Go into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way:

So I went forth, and finding the hand of God, trod gladly into the night. And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.

The statement of faith and hope and trust sustained her during her missionary years, two world wars, and a life in academia in days when few women followed such a course.

Minnie understood that at the core of our faith is an embracing of mystery, of the unknown. She had no idea of what missionary life would look like at home or abroad, but she went. Nor could she have known how radically the world would change in her lifetime, but she still served and trusted. She still put her hand in the hand of God, this mysterious, wondrous, surprising God, who creates, redeems and makes all things new.

This is the God who comes to us in Jesus Christ, in the mystery and wonder and surprise of manger, cross and empty tomb. This God who asks of us only: take my hand, I am with you. Embrace your liberation and see what wonders there are. I will never leave you. I am with you always.

We stand at the beginning of a new year. We do not know what will come. The world will change. We will be asked to embrace the hand of God who changes everything, but who is changeless. Our Circuit will certainly change, and so too will our churches, for nothing stays the same.

Except this: the extended and extending hand of God and the gracious invitation to take it and be set free.

"And remember. I am with you. Always."

These words of Christ in *Matthew 28* come in the context of the resurrection. He tells them everything has changed now. All things are new. The possibilities are now endless. Embrace your life and live your faith.

As we enter a new year, let us reflect too on Christ's words: and remember to always reach out and hold onto the hand of God .

Nik

MINISTERIAL NEWS

After three rounds of stationing (where churches are matched with ministers), many months of meetings, discussions and viewing profiles, I am sorry to say that, as yet Cheam and Epsom Methodist Churches have not been matched with a new minister from September this year.

It has been a trying time for all those involved in the process and I would like to thank the Leadership Team for all their help when we have had to get together at short notice

to try to resolve this matter. At the beginning of the process there were 154 churches requiring new ministers but only 100 ministers to fill these vacancies. You will see there is quite a large shortfall, and an example of the difficulties churches are facing is indicated by the challenge facing our neighbouring circuit Croydon where five new ministers are needed and only two have only been allocated.

On Monday, 23 January the Leadership Team met Dave Dickinson, the Circuit Superintendent, at Cheam to discuss the future. After a very positive conversation, it was determined that things may not look so bleak as they appear and we hope to bring you further news as soon as possible. We will be meeting soon and I will keep you informed of any progress.

David Worthington

FAMILY CIRCLE

This is the first Family Circle news of 2017 and I do wish you all who read this a very happy, healthy and peaceful new year.

A recent sermon by Mr Peter Thompson emphasised the importance of prayer, not just in Church on Sundays but every day during the week as well. This is specially so when we see a need or read about some tragedy in the paper. It helps so much, constantly being connected to God in this way, whether we pray out loud or in our thoughts. We ask your prayers for all who need healing, comfort, strength and peace. Many names were mentioned in the December/January *Newsletter* so please continue to think of them.

Last time we mentioned Irene Smith who had reached her 96th birthday but was needing constant care. Since then we have learned that Irene died soon after her birthday. The parcels from the sixth formers were taken to many people whom would appreciate them and Tony and Cynthia Brett Young had taken parcels provided by Cheam High Sixth Formers to Orchard House where Irene was living. They were told that Irene had died peacefully that morning, Sunday 18 December. Her daughter Marilyn had been with her the night before. Irene's funeral service was held on Tuesday 3 January. and many friends from Cheam attended. Please remember Marilyn in your prayers as well. Irene enjoyed worshipping at Cheam and also coming to the lunches.

We ask your continued prayers for our daughter Helen, who is now coping well with her treatment, still feeling tired but much less so than before. Please pray for a good result of her latest scan. Please remember also others known to us who are being treated for cancer and other challenging illnesses.

Thank you to those who visit, take flowers or phone any friends who are housebound or poorly, and all those who give lifts to friends who would otherwise be unable to attend worship.

Mary Freeman

CHURCH NEWS AND NOTICES

SeeAbility News

We enjoyed welcoming a group from SeeAbility to our church for refreshments and Christmas carols on 5 December and were pleased that Nik was able to join us. As has become the custom, several of the group chose their favourite carols for everyone to sing and Jane accompanied us on the piano. Ann, one of the group, thanked us for our hospitality and gave us a Christmas card for the church.

Many thanks to the helpers who served refreshments and made our visitors so welcome. Photos of the visit are displayed on the board at the back of the church. Many thanks also to those from our church who supported the recent production of *A Christmas Jamboree* by SeeAbility's Wild Cats Dramatic Society at Leatherhead. Both performances went well and were helped by some enthusiastic audience participation. Jane Wasbrough, the group's musical director, also doubled up as a member of the cast and did a grand job. To find out more about SeeAbility please speak to Jane or me, or see their website – www.seeability.org

Jenny Delefond

Garden Fair

Following the success of last year's Spring Garden Fair, we are planning to hold another – date to be decided. So, even though we have just got over Christmas, now is the time to think about the next fair. Please keep an eye out for anything that is associated with a garden. Ask family, friends and neighbours too. Any garden related items can be brought to the church at any time for storing. Nearer the time we shall be asking you to plant hanging baskets, shrubs etc. But more of that later.

Messy Church

After a recent get together of Messy Churches in the area we learnt of a special event that may be of interest. On Saturday 25 February at 11am a 'Messy Celebration' is being held at Southwark Cathedral. There are details of this on the poster at the back of the church.

Appeal for Bibles

A recent speaker at the Women's Friendly Hour was Nick Boddy, known to us through his work for some years as an outreach worker at Carshalton MC, and as a Street Pastor in the borough. However the subject of his presentation to the WFH was about his role as a prison visitor. During his talk he said some of those he visited requested Bibles for their own use. Christine Rippon offered to launch an appeal for Bibles to our Church members. She has already collected a number, but has asked for more to pass on to Nick. If you have a spare Bible for this important cause, please tell Christine.

Flower donations

Donations for the Church's floral displays in the past two months have been: 4th December, Grace Hine in memory of her husband, Dennis; Pauline Jackson in memory of her husband Barry; 11th, Plate donation; 18th, Wendy Green in memory of her Mum; 25th, Plate donation; January 1st, Alberta Brown in memory of her Mum; 8th, Audrey Saunderson in memory of her son Philip; 15th, donation; 22nd, Wendy Green in memory of her sister; and 29th, donation.

When writing your name on 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: December 4th, £179.70; 11th, £223.10; 18th, £185.12; 25th, £192.20; January 1st, £266.10; 8th, £214.50; 15th, £186.20; and 22nd, £218.

If you'd like to be involved in the envelope scheme, through which we receive valuable Gift Aid, please see Charles Ponnurathai.

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 March *Newsletter* is Friday 17 February.