



# CHEAM METHODIST CHURCH

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

## NEWSLETTER

## JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2018

**Minister:** Rev Gill Long [gill.long@methodist.org.uk](mailto:gill.long@methodist.org.uk)

**Lay Pastor:** Mr John Dawson 020 8644 2331

[john@nonsuchcottage.me.uk](mailto:john@nonsuchcottage.me.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>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Preacher</i>	<i>Service</i>
7 Jan	10.30am	Mr Alan Jameson	Ordinary 1
14 Jan	10.30am	Revd Gill Long	Ordinary 2 (HC) Covenant Service
21 Jan	10.30am	Mrs Lucy Brown	Ordinary 3
28 Jan	10.30m	Mr John Dawson	Ordinary 4
4 Feb	10.30am	Mr Keith Halstead	Ordinary 5
11 Feb	10.30am	Revd Gill Long	Sunday before Lent (HC)
18 Feb	10.30am	Mrs Val Imms	Lent 1
25 Feb	10.30am	Mr Jon Dawson	Lent 2

### A MESSAGE FROM REV. GILL LONG

The Grandma who ruined Christmas ....

Yes – that would be me. First mistake was to end up working longer Christmas Day than I should have so I upset the family – but the turkey didn't dry out, so I got away with it. Then we come to the presents. Since early November there have been texts flying between family members as to who *wants* what. That was far too early for me to think about 25<sup>th</sup> December, so although I kept their lists (and I was so pleased with myself for doing that) I didn't read the texts which said who was *buying* what for whom. Still with me? I think you can see where this is going .....

We seem to have high expectations for Christmas: everyone is punctual, have no trouble parking nearby, get on really well, children are polite and seen and not heard, Christmas dinner would make Mary Berry jealous; all to the accompaniment of Bing Crosby singing 'I'm dreaming of a white

Christmas'. But that's not real, is it?

Grandmas are not supposed to get every present 'wrong' as someone had either changed their mind or it had already been bought by someone else. Still, no-one else bought my son-in-law drain rods – not that he was pleased either; but then he should have made a list!

Lists. Lists of presents to buy; cards to write; food to feed an army. And talking of cards; please don't take it personally that you didn't get one from me this year. No-one did. It's another thing I 'ruined'. When Richard and I married over 40 years ago he taught me to buy my cards in the January sales and that has been the pattern of our entire marriage. I don't have to think about it at all. I couldn't find the cards this year; but not surprising as I'm packing up the house to move. It got to the last possible posting date and I had unpacked every box when, in desperate prayer I asked God where the heck they were. Realisation dawned. Last Christmas was the first since Richard died – and I had forgotten to buy any cards in the sales.

It's moments like that – and they hit hard at special times of the year - when things become 'real'. For many of us, Christmas was tinged with sadness as well as joy. Whether it's because a loved one has died or moved away, or there is a breakdown in family relationships, or loss of a job, or just the pain of remembering how things 'used to be' (or the disappointment of not receiving gifts we'd asked for, or getting 2 of them)! For people imprisoned, Christmas is very difficult indeed, and yet there is a reality about it as it's not commercialised. But it's emotional, especially in the female estate.

We can let emotions – especially guilt or sorrow – overwhelm us and we feel apprehensive about the coming New Year. Mark Twain writes that, "New Year's is a harmless annual institution, of no particular use to anybody save as a scapegoat for promiscuous drunks, and friendly calls and humbug resolutions"!

So this is the year that 'Grandma ruined Christmas', but it has caused a lot of laughter and will be a memorable one – though I will have to redeem myself next year. The solution is life on God's terms:

Romans 8: 1-2 (The Message): "With the arrival of Jesus, the Messiah, that fateful dilemma is resolved. Those who enter into Christ's being-here-for-us no longer have to live under a continuous, low-lying black cloud. A new power is in operation. The Spirit of life in Christ, like a strong wind, has magnificently cleared the air, freeing you from a fated lifetime of brutal tyranny at the hands of sin and death."

Our failures – or indeed our successes – do not determine our worth to God. He came to rescue sinners (Romans 5:8). So let's leave our regrets, or our pride, at the foot of the Cross and see 2018 thus:

"I am the New Year. I am an unspoiled page in your book of time.

I am your next chance at the art of living. I am your opportunity to practice what you have learned about life during the last twelve months.

All that you sought and didn't find is hidden in me, waiting for you to search it but with more determination.

All the good that you tried for and didn't achieve is mine to grant when you have fewer conflicting desires.

All that you dreamed but didn't dare to do, all that you hoped but did not will, all the faith that you claimed but did not have—these slumber lightly, waiting to be awakened by the touch of a strong purpose.

I am your opportunity to renew your allegiance to Him who said, "Behold, I make all things new."  
*(Bible Illustrator)*

With every blessing for 2018

*Gill*

## FAMILY CIRCLE

*In memory of Mrs Mary Bugden who died in St Helier Hospital on November 28<sup>th</sup> 2017 and whose funeral service took place on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> December at North East Surrey Crematorium at 12 noon.*

Mary was an active member of Cheam Methodist Church for many years - teaching in the Sunday School, singing in the choir and arranging the flowers beautifully in the church. She was a regular worshipper and also a member of the Women's Friendly Hour playing the piano for the meetings and also for the Boys' Brigade's marching practice.

She loved her garden and held garden parties in aid of charity . An excellent cook, Mary baked endless scones for the cake stall at church.

It was sad to see Mary becoming less able over the years due to falls and poor health but she continued to be very generous in her giving. The family are in our thoughts having lost both their mum and dad in the same year.

Donations in memory of Helen Freeman have reached over £1,300 going to The Royal Marsden, Smithers Ward and the MacMillan Cancer Support. Thanks to all for your support which enables the continued work to make cancer patients lives better and live much longer. We would like to add our thanks for the love and support we received and are still receiving over the difficult months ahead. Our church friends and Helen's friends are keeping in touch regularly. God bless you all.

**Mary and Bob Freeman**

A message from Pauline and Eddie Cleall....

*"We just wanted to say how much we enjoyed catching up with family and friends on our visit in October. It was lovely to be part of the service again and meeting John, your new Lay Pastor. Cheam will continue to thrive with his and Gill Long's input. As usual everyone made us feel very welcome. My roots are in Cheam Methodist Church and always will be. We spent Christmas with Helen and her lovely family in Wilstead, Bedfordshire. We are very lucky to have two gorgeous grandchildren – Emma who has started school and Daniel who is now eighteen months. Sara and family are very close by and our other grandchildren-twins are now 10.*

*We hope everyone enjoyed a Happy Christmas and wish all the best for 2018."*

## CHURCH AND CIRCUIT NEWS AND NOTICES

Raj Kalsi, the Circuit Administer, died on 18<sup>th</sup> November.

Raj joined us in the Autumn of 2013, taking over from Steve Whatley our first Circuit Administrator – Steve was so efficient and generally helpful we felt it would be difficult to replace him, however, Raj more than filled the role with efficiency, accuracy and a lovely way of dealing with anyone who contacted her. She was a committed Christian and a very active member of the Shirley Methodist Church where I believe among other things she was Church Treasurer.

Born in Kenya, the family moved to England when Raj, one of four daughters was quite young, she was educated, including through to university, in this country. A very intelligent lady she was held in very high regard by all who worked with her.

**Alan Jameson**

At our annual Gift Service on 3<sup>rd</sup> December, Argos vouchers were donated by the congregation for children and young people between 8 and 18 years of age who are cared for at Warren Park in Kingston. Their wide range of needs include autism, moderate to severe learning difficulties and/or

physical disabilities or complex multiple needs and who may exhibit challenging behaviour as a result. Bob and Mary Freeman took the vouchers, which amounted to £230, to the centre where they were met by the manager and two young people who showed them around.. The home, on Kingston Hill, is owned by Action for Children and is well used by parents who need respite from their responsibilities. Warren Park is a safe and welcoming place and your generous vouchers will go towards buying toys and other items needed for the centre.

- At the Church Council Meeting on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2017, it was decided that our annual donation to a charity should be for The Sutton Talking Newspaper Association. Mrs Jill Nicol, Hon Secretary, has sent the following...

*'Thank you so much for the generous donation of a cheque for £200 from Cheam Methodist Church to Sutton Talking Newspaper, which I have just received. We are always very grateful for any contributions to the ongoing costs of producing our recordings.*

*We hope your Tuesday Women's Friendly Hour ladies enjoyed Jeff Day's talk about the newspaper and if any of your parishioners need our service in the future, please let us know. Once again, very many thanks.'*

- **Christmas hampers**

We were delighted at the Cheam Tots Christmas party to be joined by members of Cheam High School's 6th form who brought 25 Christmas hampers as their community initiative for distribution to people who suffer difficulties in their lives. All the hampers were taken to folk nominated by our members and by some of the Tots mums. The head of the 6<sup>th</sup> form, Mrs Michele Mears sent this photograph...



- **Street Carol Singing**

On Monday evening, 18<sup>th</sup> December, members of the church sang carols in local streets to raise money for Action for Children which amounted to £250.88 which was amazing for just over an hour's singing. We had a wonderful reception (a few children even followed us for a while) and the evening was rounded off with lovely refreshments and entertainment at Mary and Bob's home.

- **Christmas Fair**

A huge thank you to all who helped and supported our Christmas Fair on 18th November. The total raised for Christian Aid was £

- **Women's World Day of Prayer 2018**

Prepared by the women of Surinam, South America  
(Details to follow)

## FEATURES

### Memory lane: return to the golden days of motoring



This is a photograph from the Sutton Archives. Taken in 1932, it shows Victor Garage at 33 The Broadway, Cheam. The premises is now The Claret Wine Bar.

For more pictures of old Sutton follow [@SuttonHeritage](#) on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

### St John's Baptist Church, Chester



I visited Chester on 5<sup>th</sup> December and by chance I decided to visit above church as I had been told that it had been the original Cathedral in the Middle ages. What a find! In front is a recently exposed part of the largest Roman Amphitheatre in Britain, and to the side, ruins from the original (I am not sure but might be from before 1000). The photo is a memorial to someone from the Warburton family and it is carved from one piece of marble in such a way that you can see the image of a belly and knees as if under a sheet.

**Wendy Green**

## NEWS FROM RYELANDS

Many thanks to all those who supported the Christmas Fair at Ryelands on 25<sup>th</sup> November. The weather was reasonably kind this year and the stalls were kept busy with lots of people buying Christmas gifts, raffle tickets, tempting goodies on the cake stall – and of course enjoying meeting friends and catching up over cups of tea and mince pies. The cake stall raised £159 and the total amount for the Home's Amenity Fund was £2,438. Morigue Cornwell, chair of the Friends' Group who organise and run the Fairs, and Aurea De Souza, the new manager at Ryelands, have asked me to convey their thanks to everyone involved for their efforts.

**Jenny Delafond**

## NEWS FROM SEEABILITY

We were very pleased to welcome the Community Access group from the Millennium Centre at Leatherhead to CMC on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December. Our guests enjoyed chatting with us over light refreshments after which everyone joined in with singing some favourite carols. Thanks to Jane who played the piano and to Mary who led the singing. Thanks also to John Dawson who joined us and to all the helpers. Paul Whittingham, a member of the group, thanked us for our hospitality and gave us a Christmas card which is displayed at the back of the church together with some photos taken by Margaret.

The two Christmas performances by the Wild Cats' Dramatic Society were up to their usual high standard and both audiences enjoyed a very entertaining production of "Cinders' Fellas" written and directed by Hannah Stuart. Many thanks to friends from CMC who came to support the group at both productions. It was sad to know that it was the last time the group would have Jane Wasbrough as their musical director and also as a member of the cast. Jane has been a loyal and very valuable volunteer member of the group for the past eleven years and her involvement has been very much appreciated both on and off the 'stage'. Following the production on the 13<sup>th</sup> December, Hannah thanked Jane on behalf of the group and presented her with a book containing photographs of the various productions during her time with the Wild Cats which I am sure she will enjoy and treasure. Jane assured the group that she would continue to support their future productions and would look forward to being a member of the audience for a change!

**Jenny Delafond**

## SUNDAY SERVICES IN NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

The aim of this item is to help us reflect of the services of the previous months. It will include details of the readings, and some brief notes from each service

- **November 5th**

Readings: Psalm 119: 1 - 8

Hebrews 9: 11 - 14

Mark 12: 28 – 34

- **November 12<sup>th</sup>** - Revd Gill Long, Remembrance Sunday

Readings: Joshua 24: 14 – 25

1 Thessalonians 4: 13 – 18

Matthew 25: 1 – 13

How prepared are we to meet Jesus?

**If Jesus came to your house**

*If Jesus came to your house to spend a day or two –*

*If He came unexpectedly, I wonder what you'd do?*

*Oh, I know you'd give your nicest room to such an honoured Guest,*

*And all the food you'd serve Him would be the very best,*

*And you would keep assuring Him you're glad to have Him there –*

*That serving Him in your own house is joy beyond compare.*

*But when you saw Him coming, would you meet Him at the door  
With arms outstretched in welcome to your heavenly Visitor?  
Or would you have to change your clothes before you let Him in?  
Or hide some magazines and put the Bible where they'd been?  
Would you turn off the radio and hope He'd hadn't heard?  
And wish you hadn't uttered that last, loud, hasty word?*

*Would you hide your worldly music and put some hymn books out?  
Could you let Jesus walk right in, or would you rush about?  
And I wonder - if the Saviour spent a day or two with you,  
Would you go right on doing the things you always do?*

*Would you go right on saying the things you always say?  
Would life for you continue as it does from day to day?*

*Would your family conversation keep up it's usual pace?  
And would you find it hard each meal to say a table grace?  
Would you sing the songs you always sing, and read the  
books you read,  
And let Him know the things on which your mind and spirit feed?  
Would you take Jesus with you everywhere you'd planned to go?  
Or would you, maybe, change your plans for just a day or so?*

*Would you be glad to have Him meet your very closest friends?  
Or would you hope they'd stay away until His visit ends?  
Would you be glad to have Him stay forever on and on?  
Or would you sigh with great relief when He at last was gone?  
It might be interesting to know the things that you would do  
If Jesus Christ in person came to spend some time with you*

– Lois Blanchard Eades

- **November 19<sup>th</sup>** – Mr Richard Smith

Readings: Zephaniah 1: 7, 12 – 18

Matthew 25: 14 – 30

*'We are given gifts in varying degrees. God knows what we can do and He gives us the gifts we can cope with. It is our responsibility to use the gifts we have.'*

- **November 26<sup>th</sup>** – Mr John Dawson

Readings: Ezekiel 34: 11 – 16

Ephesians 12: 15 – 23

Matthew 25: 31 – 46

'All are welcome in this place.' What sign should we give for a welcome to our church?

*A Cathedral Welcome*

*We extend a special welcome to those who are single, married, divorced, widowed, gay, confused, filthy rich, comfortable or dirt poor.*

*We extend a special welcome to wailing babies and excited toddlers.*

*We welcome you whether you can sing like Pavarotti or just growl quietly to yourself.*

*You're welcome here if you are just browsing, just woken up or just out of prison.*

*We don't care if you're more Christian than the Archbishop of Canterbury or haven't been to church since Christmas ten years ago.*

*We extend a special welcome to those who are over sixty, but not grown up yet, and to teenagers who are growing up too fast.*

*We welcome keep fit mums, football dads, starving artists, tree huggers, latte sippers, vegetarians, junk food eaters.*

*We welcome those who are in recovery or still addicted.*

*We welcome you if you are having problems, are down in the dumps or don't like 'organised religion' (we're not that keen on it either!)*

*We offer a welcome to those who think the earth is flat, work too hard, don't work, can't spell or are here because granny is visiting and wanted to come to the Cathedral.*

*We welcome those who are inked, pierced, both or neither.*

*We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now, had religion shoved down their throats as kids or got lost in the city centre and wound up here by mistake.*

*We welcome pilgrims, tourists, seekers, doubters ....and you!*

With kind permission of Coventry Cathedral

**ALL MEANS ALL!!**

- December 3<sup>rd</sup> – Mrs Judith Wakelin (Gift Service) Advent 1

Readings: 1 Corinthians 1: 3 – 9

Mark 13: 24 -37

- December 10<sup>th</sup> – Revd Gill Long Advent 2

Readings: Isaiah 40: 1 – 11

2 Peter 3: 8 – 15a

Mark 1: 1 – 8

*'The people need to be ready and prepare their hearts to receive the Lord.'*

- December 17<sup>th</sup> Mr John Dawson - Carol Service

- December 24<sup>th</sup> Mr John Dawson

Readings: Luke 1: 26 – 38

Luke1: 46b – 55

*"Consider this... What if Mary had said 'No thanks' when Gabriel told her she was to become the mother of the Son of God!!"*

## PRAYER TOPICS FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

Pray for...

- Renewal and revival at the beginning of the year
- Progress in the Brexit negotiations
- Those who spent Christmas alone or homeless
- The victims of the flooding following storm Tembin in the Philippines

<b>DATES FOR YOUR DIARY</b>
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### January

Mon 8 <sup>th</sup>	8pm	Leadership Team meeting
Tues 9 <sup>th</sup>	10-11.30am	Cheam Tots parent/carer and toddler group
	2.30pm	Women's Friendly Hour - Mr John Dawson, Lay Pastor
Weds 10 <sup>th</sup>	8pm	House Group at Audrey Saunderson's home
Sun 14 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Covenant Service
Tues 16 <sup>th</sup>	10-11.30am	Cheam Tots parent/carer and toddler group
	2.30pm	Women's Friendly Hour - Shirley Cornish 'Trekking on the Great Wall of China' talk & slides
Thurs 18 <sup>th</sup>	8pm	Circuit Treasurers meeting – Great Tattenhams
Tues 23 <sup>rd</sup>	10-11.30am	Cheam Tots parent/carer and toddler group
	2.30pm	Women's Friendly Hour - Members afternoon
Fri 26 <sup>th</sup>	8pm	House Group at Mary Freeman's home
Tues 30 <sup>th</sup>	10-11.30am	Cheam Tots parent/carer and toddler group
	2.30pm	Women's Friendly Hour – Paul Whittle Music CD's

**All events at Cheam Methodist Church unless otherwise stated.**

### February

Tues 6 <sup>th</sup>	10-11.30am	Cheam Tots parent/carer and toddler group
	2.30pm	Women's Friendly Hour – Members afternoon - with pancakes
	8.00pm	Local Preachers meeting at Cheam
Weds 7 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	House Group at Audrey Saunderson's Home
Tues 13 <sup>th</sup>	10-11.30am	Cheam Tots parent/carer and toddler group
		<b>No meeting – Half Term</b>
	2.30pm	Women's Friendly Hour
		<b>No meeting – Half Term</b>
Weds 14 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	Ash Wednesday service
Tues 18 <sup>th</sup>	7.45 for 8pm	Circuit Meeting - Sutton Trinity

Tues 20<sup>th</sup> 10-11.30am Cheam Tots parent/carer and toddler group  
 2.30pm Women's Friendly Hour – Dr Roger Squires  
 Creatures of Madagascar  
 7.45 for 8.00pm Church Council meeting  
 Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> 8.00pm House Group at Mary Freeman's home  
 Sun 25<sup>th</sup> 6.30pm Circuit Service – 'Fairtrade' at Carshalton  
 Easter Experience preview at Trinity, Sutton  
 Tues 27<sup>th</sup> 10-11.30am Cheam Tots parent/carer and toddler group  
 2.30pm Women's Friendly Hour – An afternoon of crafts – Jane Wasbrough

**The deadline for the March/April Newsletter is  
 Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February**

<b>WHO'S WHO</b>
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**Lay Pastor:** Mr John Dawson: Email; [john@nonsuchcottage.me.uk](mailto:john@nonsuchcottage.me.uk)  
 Tel: 020 8644 2331

**Eucharist Minister** Revd Gill Long

**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 John and Gill are David Worthington (8644 5160), Brian Kingswood (8641 0016), Jane Wasbrough (8641 4304), Mary Freeman (8644 3999), Audrey Saunderson (8644 6911), and Charles Ponnuthurai (8644 3367).

**Hall bookings**

Audrey Saunderson 020 8644 6911

**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 Jane Wasbrough on [jane.wasbrough@btinternet.com](mailto:jane.wasbrough@btinternet.com)

<b>SUNDAY COLLECTIONS</b>
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October	29 <sup>th</sup>	£131.55
November	5 <sup>th</sup>	£154.60
	12 <sup>th</sup>	£188.30
	19 <sup>th</sup>	£128.80
	26 <sup>th</sup>	£179.70
December	3 <sup>rd</sup>	£187.80
	10 <sup>th</sup>	£240.15
	17 <sup>th</sup>	£185.25

**CHURCH FLOWERS**

The latest donations for the Church's floral displays have been:

Nov 5 <sup>th</sup>	Pauline Cleall
Nov 12 <sup>th</sup>	Pauline Cleall
Nov 19 <sup>th</sup>	IMO Rene White
Nov 26 <sup>th</sup>	IMO Rene White
Dec 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Donation
Dec 10 <sup>th</sup>	Elizabeth Baldwin IMO her son
Dec 17 <sup>th</sup>	Wendy Green IMO her parents
Dec 24 <sup>th</sup>	Flower Fund
Dec 31 <sup>st</sup>	Jennifer Evans IMO her parents

Many thanks for all donations to the Flower Fund during the last year. A new flower calendar is now available at the back of the church so if you would like to donate money towards flowers on a particular date in 2018, please enter your name against the date and give the money to Audrey. Any other donations for the flower fund would be very much appreciated, so if you would like to contribute, you will find a plate on the table at the back of the church – alternatively, please give your donation directly to Audrey.

If you know of anyone who would appreciate receiving flowers previously displayed in church, please let Mary Freeman or Jenny Delafond know.

Many thanks to Audrey who looks after the flower fund monies and to the 'flower girls' who buy and arrange the flowers every week throughout the year.

