

CHEAM METHODIST CHURCH

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

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2019

Lay Pastor: Mr John Dawson 020 8644 2331 john@nonsuchcottage.me.uk

Eucharist Minister: Rev Gill Long

gill.long@methodist.org.uk

SERVICES AT CHEAM METHODIST CHURCH (10.30am)

<i>Date</i>	<i>Preacher</i>	<i>Service</i>
6 January	Mrs Val Imms	Epiphany
13 January	Revd Gill Long	Ordinary 1 Holy Communion
20 January	Mrs Hannah Chun	Ordinary 2
27 January	Mr John Dawson	Ordinary 3
3 February	Mr Ernest Tsu	Ordinary 4
10 February	Revd Gill Long	Ordinary 5 Holy Communion
17 February	Mr John Dawson	Ordinary 6
24 February	Mr Sang Wook Han	Ordinary 7

Hall Bookings: Audrey Saunderson – 020 8644 6911

www.cheammethodistchurch.org.uk

Church Charity Number: SI 2655/2007

A MESSAGE FROM REVD GILL LONG



Are you in a stable relationship?

You may think I'm being nose-y – wondering about your love-life and whether or not you have a long-term partner. But the stable I'm thinking of is the one we hear about every Christmas. Someone once said that the manger was the first king-size bed!

What does Christmas mean to you? Glad it's all over (it's actually Christmas Eve evening as I write this, so I'm in the thick of it);

worried about the credit card bill to come?

How do you picture the stable scene - log cabin, pristine straw, clean animals and wooden manger? Or the basement of the inn with a stone feeding trough and the animals close by providing free body heat? What about this one below –

Does that image offend?

Working in a prison, many of the respond to this picture positively. homeless and will be again on know the value of a cardboard box. come in cans (or bottles); they cup. And now prisons are smoke-would light up at the thought of smoke again! When someone every coping mechanism is taken



women would Many have been release – they Their drinks don't possess a free, their eyes being able to comes to prison, away.

The Christian comedian Milton Jones says, "If you spend too long in prison you can become institutionalised, and it can be difficult to make that leap of faith over the wall to freedom. This applies to being locked up in church culture too"

Are you locked in a faith that you held years ago – it's never grown? Perhaps you've never really thought about it; you've been going to church all your life but never thought of yourself as 'institutionalised'!

The story is told of the great circus performer by the name of Blondin who stretched a long steel cable across Niagara Falls. During high winds and without a safety net, he walked, ran, and even danced across the tightrope to the amazement and delight of the large crowd of people who watched.

Once he took a wheelbarrow full of bricks and amazed the crowd by pushing it effortlessly across the cable, from one side of the falls to the other. Blondin then turned to the crowd and asked, "Now, how many of you believe that I could push a man across the wire in the wheelbarrow?"

The vote was unanimous. Everyone cheered and held their hands high. They all believed he could do it. "Then," asked Blondin, "Would one of you please volunteer to be that person?"

As quickly as the hands went up, they went back down. Not a single person would volunteer to ride in the wheelbarrow and to trust his life to Blondin.

Many people come to church at Christmas and say, "Yes, I believe in Jesus"! If that's you, are you willing to demonstrate your belief by trusting your life to Him – are you willing to be in a stable relationship? Faith is not just an intellectual exercise; it means looking 'outside the box' and making a total commitment.

Will 2019 be the year you take that leap of faith? I hope so

Gill

FAMILY CIRCLE

First to hope that everyone had a lovely Christmas and to wish all our readers a very happy and peaceful new year.

Congratulations to Gem who attended the christening of Bella Rose, the first of a fourth generation in the family. The proud parents are Gem's great grandson Mark and Sue Wason. This was held on the 9th December and I'm sure was a lovely celebration which everyone enjoyed.

The Women's Friendly Hour have been enjoying the various speakers and music etc. A sing-a-long with Stella Wallace and the Silver Belles was held on the 4th December and the final meeting was a member's afternoon, with Christmas poems, stories and carols. Our finale was 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' with actions and a happy time was had by all. Refreshments included Christmas cake and mince pies.

Please remember in your prayers all who are receiving treatment and any who have been going through a difficult period at this time. Special prayers for continued healing for our Lay Pastor John, and for our minister Gill, whose work is especially hard dealing with families who are separated at this time.

We are so grateful that John has been able to join us at our services with the continued help of the worship leaders.

Mary Freeman

CHURCH NEWS AND NOTICES

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS



Once again, the 6th form pupils at Cheam High School collected groceries and other Christmas goods to assemble into 17 beautifully presented hampers as part of their community project. These, in turn, were distributed to those nominated by our members, all of which were received with delight and surprise. Among the recipients of the hampers were folk who are housebound or living in sheltered accommodation and nursing homes, others facing family difficulties and some with illness or health conditions We thank all young people and charities who work to make all those in need have a special time at Christmas.

CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING

The Coffee Morning held on 17th November in aid of Christian Aid raised £276.45. Proceeds from the sale of produce at the Harvest Festival lunch raised a further £82.00 making a grand total of £358.45

CHEAM TOTS

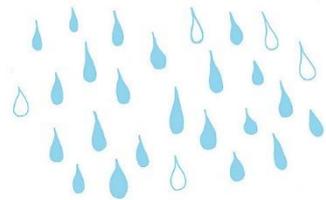
During November Cheam Tots held a toy sale to raise funds for the BBC's 'Children in Need'. The amount raised was £78.20. Father Christmas was the surprise guest at the Christmas party and following a short time in the church, for a story and singing, the children, (and adults) tucked into a tasty spread of refreshments donated by the mums and carers. We said goodbye to 2 of our



children, Kareesh and Jasper, who are off to nursery school

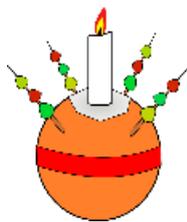
Jane Wasbrough

STREET CAROL SINGING



Unfortunately, the bad weather meant that both evenings scheduled for carol singing had to be cancelled. Let's hope for better weather next year.

MESSY CHRISTINGLE



December 2nd was a busy day!

In the morning we celebrated the start of Advent by lighting the first candle on the Advent wreath. We also heard about the work of

**The
Children's
Society**

In the afternoon we had a large congregation at the Christingle service which was preceded by the usual selection of crafts activities, games and challenges.



The total from the collecting candle money boxes amounted to £108.28 which has been sent to The Children's Society. Many thanks.

Jane Wasbrough

CLEAR UP DAY

Following the recent quinquennial report we have been advised to remove flooring in the office, property room and the transept which are infected with woodworm. We plan to hold a working party on Saturday January 26th to empty the office and property room and remove and dispose of the floor. As there is concrete beneath the affected floors we can do this work ourselves, so both rooms will have to be completely cleared and cleaned. The transept is more complicated and will need professional intervention. If you are able to give up some of your time on the 26th we shall be starting at 10am.

Leadership Team

FEATURES

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

A women-led, global, ecumenical movement. This will be held on Friday, 1st March 2019 at the Salvation Army Church, Benhill Avenue, Sutton at 10.00am. This year's service is being prepared by the Women of Slovenia.

RATE MY SERMON

A church is trialling the use of a live voting app during sermons to help engage with its congregation.

Worshippers at Aylsham Parish Church in Norfolk are asked to take their phones to services and use their handsets to answer questions which are displayed behind the vicar on a projector screen.

They can also rate hymns they like or dislike to help make future services more enjoyable, and the app has also been used to display a "word cloud" of things the congregation is praying for.

Rev Canon Andrew Beane said it 'has given us an opportunity to be much more interactive in our worship'.

NEWS FROM RYELANDS

It was good to see some friends from CMC at the Ryelands' Christmas Fair on the 24th November. The Fair raised a total of £2,363 which included £95 raised on the cake stall run by CMC. Many thanks to everyone who came along to support the Fair, baked cakes or bought programmes - and especially to those who helped run the stall. It is hoped that we will have more donations for the stall next time, which will be the Summer Fair on Saturday 29th June.

Jenny Delafond

NEWS FROM SEEABILITY



On Monday 3rd December our friends from SeeAbility at Leatherhead were with us for their Christmas visit. Following coffee, cake and mince pies, everyone joined in with singing some of the group's favourite carols. Paul Whittingham, one of our regular visitors, expressed his thanks and said how much the group enjoyed their visits to Cheam Methodist and greatly appreciated the warm welcome and hospitality. A Christmas card from the Community Access group is displayed at the back of the church together with some photos taken at the visit. Many thanks to all those who helped in any way.

Jenny Delafond

SUTTON SCHOOLSWORK



A new Secondary schoolsworker, Kate Travers, has been appointed to replace Cat Hubbard. You can read more about Kate in the Sutton Schoolswork Winter Newsletter at the back of the church.

“When I first came across Sutton Schoolswork, I thought it was a truly amazing charity that I would love to work for, and now this is reality! I strongly feel that Sutton Schoolswork is the place where God has wanted me to be all along. I feel extremely blessed to be joining the team! I'm so excited about the future and can't wait to meet you all!”

SUNDAY SERVICES IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

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

28th Oct Mr John Dawson

Readings: Jeremiah 31: 7 – 9
Mark 10: 46 – 52
Hebrews 7: 23 – 28

- *'Sometimes, things in the Bible puzzle us. Our questions often lead to further questions.*

Baptist preacher, Charles Spurgeon, compared reading the Bible to a fish – the flesh is nice and healthy but sometimes you come across a bone.

The story of Bartimaeus highlights that we have things in our lives that we want to put right so...be humble...don't let the crowd stop you...let go of the past...follow Jesus.

Unlike many priests of old whose work conclude with their deaths, Jesus, the Great High Priest's work is eternal.'

4th Nov Revd Chris Morley

Readings: Isaiah 25: 6 – 9

John 11: 32 – 44

How do we feel about Halloween?

As Christians we celebrate All Saints Day and All Souls day.

Jesus' attitude to death...

Those who want to save their life will lose it, those who want to lose their life will be saved.

Dying is an important part of living.

Dying offers us a model of how we should live.

11th Nov Mr John Dawson - Remembrance Sunday

Readings: Micah 4: 1 – 8

Romans 8: 31 – 35, 37 – 39

Matthew 5: 43 - 48

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, We will remember them.



18th Nov Mr Peter Thompson

Readings: Psalm 46

Romans 8: 18 - 39

God speaks to all of us about the certainty of our hope.

The 3 levels of hope...

- *We can hope for something that might be – a possibility*
- *We can hope to complete a task by working at our hopes*
- *We have an assured realization of our future – a certainty with God.*

We must never mistake God's silence for God's absence.

The testing of our faith produces endurance.

25th Nov Mr John Dawson

Readings: John 18: 33 – 37

Revelations 1: 4b - 8

There are 2 types of king – a role model, figure head

- despots & tyrants

What sort of king is Christ?

Jesus is my king because He is THE king – the ONLY king.

He has absolute ownership and authority of everything and everyone.

2nd Dec Mr John Dawson (Advent 1)

Readings: Luke 2: 1 – 20

Luke 21: 25 – 36

The Children's Society 50th anniversary of the introduction of the Christingle service in Britain.

9th Dec Revd Gill Long (Advent 2)

Readings: Malachi 3: 1 – 4

Philippians 1: 3 – 11

Luke 3: 1 – 6

Live the message this Advent.

His message is for all.

All can be saved to the utmost.

'On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

Announces that the Lord is nigh'

– are you ready for Him?

16th Dec Mr John Dawson (Advent 3) - A service of readings and carols.



23rd Dec (Advent 4) *Favourite hymns/carols*

Readings: Luke 1: 26 – 38

Luke 2: 8 – 12

Matthew 2: 1 – 12

24th Dec Revd Gill Long - Midnight Communion

Readings: Isaiah 9: 2 – 7

Luke 2: 1 – 14

We are filled with joy for we have heard good news of great joy.

We are filled with love for we have tasted the sign of God's great love.

We are filled with hope for there is a Light for us to follow.

25th Dec Mr John Dawson - Christmas Morning Worship

Readings: Hebrews 1: 1 – 3a

John 1: ! – 14

Readers required...

If you feel you could be added to the Sunday morning readers list, please let one of the Leadership team, or John , know.

PRAYER TOPICS FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

Pray for.....

- those who spent a difficult Christmas
- and give thanks for all the agencies who support homeless and vulnerable people during the winter
- for the survivors and families affected by the tsunami in Indonesia
- renewal at the start of a new year



For further daily prayers look in the Methodist Church Prayer Handbook 2018/19 and on our website.

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

October	28 th	£211.00
November	4 th	£168.60
	11 th	£239.20
	18 th	£178.90
	25 th	£208.50
December	2 nd	£177.50
	9 th	£170.75
	16 th	£166.90
	23 rd	£162.30

LEAGUE OF LIGHT HOME COLLECTION BOXES

It is time to empty and return your 'League of Light' Home Collection Boxes. Please let me have them as soon as possible.

Thank You.

Pauline Jackson

CHURCH FLOWERS

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

November	4 th	Mary and Bob Freeman
	11 th	Glyn Alpe IMO his son, Simon
	18 th	Pauline Cleall
	25 th	Penny and Mick Ball IMO Penny's Mum Miriam
December	2 nd	Pauline Jackson
	9 th	Elizabeth Baldwin IMO her son
	16 th	Tea Fund
	23 rd	Pauline Cleall
	30 th	Pauline Jackson

A flower calendar is available on the notice board at the back of the church so if you would like to donate money towards flowers on a particular date, 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 the flower basket 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.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

JANUARY

Mon. 7 th 8.00pm.	Leadership Team Meeting at Audrey's
Tues. 8 th 2.30pm.	Women's Friendly Hour - Lay Pastor John Dawson
Wed. 9 th 8.00pm.	House Group at Audrey's – 105 Abbotts Road, Cheam
Sun. 13 th 9.45am.	Prayer Meeting
Tues. 15 th 10-11.30am. 2.30pm.	Cheam Tots reopens Women's Friendly Hour Jenny Brown – Japanese Embroidery
Fri 18 th 8.00pm	House Group at Mary's – 14 Priory Avenue, Cheam (Please note the change of date from the 25 th)
Sun 20 th 6.30pm	Service for the Week of Christian Unity Trinity Church Sutton
Tues. 22 nd 10-11.30am. 2.30pm.	Cheam Tots Women's Friendly Hour – Paul Whittle - Music CD's – Have I Got Tunes for You
Sat 26 th 10.00am	Clear up Day
Tues. 29 th 10-11.30am. 2.30pm.	Cheam Tots Women's Friendly Hour Mollie Varcoe – Nonsuch Ringers

FEBRUARY

Tues. 5 th	10-11.30am. 2.30pm. 8.00pm.	Cheam Tots Women's Friendly Hour Members Afternoon – Pancakes Circuit Meeting
Wed. 6 th	8.00pm.	House Group at Audrey's – 105 Abbotts Road, Cheam
Sun. 10 th	9.45am. 10.30am.	Prayer Meeting Action for Children Day - Gift Vouchers
Tues. 12 th	10-11.30am. 2.30pm. 8.00pm.	Cheam Tots Women's Friendly Hour Dr. Roger Squires –London's Thames Bridges with Slides Churches Together in Sutton and Cheam meeting at Cheam
Tues. 19 th		No Cheam Tots or Women's Friendly Hour
Wed. 20 th	8.00pm.	Church Council Meeting
Fri. 22 nd	8.00pm.	House Group at Mary's – 14 Priory Avenue, Cheam
Tues. 26 th	10-11.30am. 2.30pm.	Cheam Tots Women's Friendly Hour Margaret McAllister – Chair Exercises

Church Leadership Team

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 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

**The deadline for the March/April Newsletter is
Friday 22nd February**