



CHEAM METHODIST CHURCH

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

NEWSLETTER MARCH 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 Mar	10.30am	Rev Ray Norgate	Lent 1 Holy Communion
12 Mar	10.30am	Ms Hannah Chun	Lent 2
19 Mar	10.30am	Rev Nik Wooller	Lent 3
26 Mar	10.30 am	Rev Mark Wakelin	Lent 4

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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
Tues 7 th 10-11.30am	Cheam Tots – Parent/carer and toddler group
Tues 7 th 2.30pm	Women's Friendly Hour – Members' afternoon, favourite CDs
Tues 14 th 10-11.30am	Cheam Tots – Parent/carer and toddler group
Tues 14 th 2.30pm	Women's Friendly Hour – Shirley Cornish: <i>Travel adventures with my friend Anne</i>
Sat 18 th 7.30pm	Quiz and cakes night in aid of Nik's son, Joe's trip, 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 – Mrs Maureen Patel
Tues 28 th 10-11.30am	Cheam Tots – Parent/carer and toddler group
Tues 28 th 2.30pm	Women's Friendly Hour – Mr Paul Whittle, Music CDs
Fri 31 st 8pm	House group at Mary Freeman's home, 14 Priory Avenue, Cheam

All events at Cheam Methodist Church unless otherwise stated.

Deadline for the April Newsletter is Friday 24 March.

A MESSAGE FROM REV NIK WOOLLER

Life: Struggling, but trusting in God's love

I don't know about you, but I am feeling Christmas was an age ago. For me the beginning of the year is always coloured by getting back to normal life with all that this entails. We have the New Year's resolutions to try and keep, our promises to ourselves and others to attempt to hold on to, and our shared Covenant with God to challenge us and renew us as we journey together into 2017.

In these darker months our thoughts are lifted somewhat by the prospect of the coming Spring. From my office I look out onto the garden and one of the trees already has blossom on its boughs. Its apparent optimism might be a sign of warmer days ahead, but I find these thoughts are tinged with a concern, that a sharp frost will kill off these signs of re-emerging life. In some ways this is like life in general: we

look for new life to encourage us, but we know that life can be a struggle. We therefore put our trust in God to help us, and take Jesus's example as a challenge but also a celebration of how life and resurrection conquers all, in God's love.

1st March was Ash Wednesday, the start of Lent, that season of reflection which leads to the celebrations of Easter. During Lent we acknowledge life's struggles, but we do that while acknowledging that in Christ we have the victory; and that His life, death and resurrection show us the way to God the Father.

The President of Conference's engagements calendar includes this prayer, which I thought was appropriate to share with you:

Gracious God, you meet us in moments of holiness; you transform us in the struggle for justice; you call us to the way of Jesus. Grant us faith and courage that this day and every day we may step beyond the comfort of the known and the familiar to discover more of the wonders of your love. Amen.

Nik

INISTERIAL NEWS

Although another Interview has been held to find a replacement for Rev Nik Wooller, it has still not been possible to find an appropriate match for the Cheam and Epsom churches.

David Worthington

FAMILY CIRCLE

Firstly, please pray for Katie Rippon, who is very seriously ill in intensive care in St Helier Hospital. Lift up in prayer for comfort, strength and support for all her family who have taken turns to be at her bedside for many weeks. Katie has had excellent care from doctors and nurses, someone has been there for her all the time. We ask God to give Katie his presence and peace at this time.

Thank God for his answer to our prayers. Our daughter Helen's last results of her scan were very good and her treatment is working well. She also had check-up at Moorfields Eye Hospital which showed much improvement with the sight of her right eye, and this should gradually improve over the next few months.

Alan Bugden had a fall at home recently and has been in St. Helier Hospital recovering from a hip operation. Please pray for his recovery and for Mary who has been on her own for some time. Thanks to those who have visited Mary and Alan as they do appreciate visitors.

Please pray for others who are receiving treatment, and for all our members who are unable to worship with us at present including Joyce and Bert Mealing and Frank Kemp. Please remember in your prayers those who are recalling painful anniversaries of the loss of loved ones.

Thank God for his continued help and guidance as our Church faces change in the future. Bless our minister Nik and all the members who serve God in various ways to help keep our Church a warm and welcoming place to be.

We always like to include good news in the *Family Circle* so do please let me know if you have any you'd like to share.

Mary Freeman

CHURCH NEWS AND NOTICES



All members and friends are invited to the preview of Easter Experience at Carshalton Methodist Church on Sunday 5 March at 5.30pm or at Trinity Sutton on Sunday 19 March at 6.30pm. One performance at North Cheam Baptist Church has already taken place. All three venues are fully booked for the week following each preview – 10 performances in each church – and this means that over 2,000 primary-age children from local schools and their teachers and other escort volunteers will have the opportunity to take part in the drama and to ask questions. This is a unique experience following the events of Holy Week.

Churches Together in Sutton and Cheam

At the recent CTSC meeting at Trinity Church, Sarah Webb from SuttonSchoolsWork gave an outline of the work they undertake in local primary and secondary schools in the borough. She also invited churches to contact SSW if they would like a presentation at their services. A donation was made from CTSC towards the 'It's your move' booklet which is presented to all primary children preparing to transfer to secondary school.

There was concern that the Good Friday Walk of Witness through the centre of Sutton may have to fold unless an organiser comes forward.

An update of Sutton Community Works (SCW) who oversee Food Bank, Sutton Seniors, Street and School Pastors, Prayer for Sutton, the Befriending service and the Job Club was made with an appeal for a new financial trustee to sit on the board. The SCW website provides a fuller overview of their work and origins – suttoncommunityworks.org

A service for this year's Women's World Day of Prayer will be held at 10.30am on Friday 3 March at The Salvation Army Hall (corner of Benhill Avenue and Throwley Way). For those who cannot make the daytime service, a service is offered that evening at Wallington United Reformed Church, Stanley Park Road, Carshalton at 7.30pm.

Jane Wasbrough

Sunday collections

Recent Sunday morning contributions have been: 29 January, £195.70; 5 February, £250.00; 12 February £207.20; 19 February £236.00; and 26 February, £180. That's a total of £873.20 – a healthy 22% up on last year's February figure, before Gift Aid.

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

Flower donations

Recent donations for the Church's floral displays have been: 5 February, Mary and Bob Freeman; 12 February, donation; 19 February, Penny Ball in memory of her Mum, Miriam; and 26 February, Esther and Eric Randall to mark their 48th wedding anniversary.

When writing your name on the flower calendar would you please give your donation to me.

Audrey Sauderson

Summer fair at Ryelands

Please make a note of the date for the summer fair at Ryelands this year – it's Saturday 20 May from 2-4pm. More details next month.

Easter lilies

As in recent years, white lilies will be displayed in the sanctuary on Easter Day. For those who wish to enter a message, the CMC book of remembrance will be available on the table at the back of the church. Donations towards the cost of the lilies would be appreciated and should be placed in the box provided.

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 Sauderson (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.