



CHEAM METHODIST CHURCH

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

NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 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

SERVICES AT CHEAM METHODIST CHURCH

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Preacher</i>	<i>Service</i>
2 Oct	10.30am	Rev Chris Morley	Holy Communion Harvest Festival
9 Oct	10.30am	Rev Ray Norgate	28 Ordinary
16 Oct	10.30am	Mr Ernest Tsui	29 Ordinary
23 Oct	10.30am	Mrs Val Imms	30 Ordinary
30 Oct	10.30am	Rev Mark Wakelin	31 Ordinary

FOR YOUR DIARY

OCTOBER

Sat 1 st	10.30am	Decorate Church for Harvest Festival
Sun 2 nd	12.30pm	Harvest Festival Faith Lunch
Tues 4 th	10-11.30am	Cheam Tots – Parent/Carer and Toddler Group
Tues 4 th	2.30pm	Women's Friendly Hour – Members' afternoon, Harvest Festival
Wed 5 th	8pm	House Group Meeting at Audrey Saunderson's home, 105 Abbotts Road, Cheam
Tues 11 th	10-11.30am	Cheam Tots – Parent/Carer and Toddler Group
Tues 11 th	2.30pm	Women's Friendly Hour – Mr Ron Kinton, <i>Celebrating 25 years of the Friends of Nonsuch</i>
Sun 16 th	9.45am	Prayer Meeting
Tues 18 th	10-11.30am	Cheam Tots – Parent/Carer and Toddler Group
Tues 18 th	2.30pm	Women's Friendly Hour – Rev Mark Williams of St John's Church, Belmont
Wed 19 th	8pm	Church Council meeting
Tues 25 th		No Tots – half term
Tues 25 th		No Women's Friendly Hour – half term
Fri 28 th	8pm	House Group Meeting at Mary Freeman's home, 14 Priory Avenue, Cheam
Mon 31 st	8pm	Leadership Team Meeting, Audrey Saunderson's home

NOVEMBER

Sat 19 th	2-4pm	Ryelands Fair
Sat 26 th	11am-2pm	Christian Aid Autumn/Christmas Fair

Deadline for November *Newsletter*, Friday 21 October with contributions to Tony Brett Young on abrettyoung@hotmail.com

A MESSAGE FROM REV NIK WOOLLER

A couple of recent events on train journeys have inspired me this month. In the first, a couple of mums with pushchairs and loads of bags were alighting at a station, clearly having been shopping. They had chatted to each other non-stop on the journey and continued as the conductor helped them off-load pushchairs and bags before they went on their way down the platform still in deep conversation. As he got back on the train I heard the conductor mumble: "Well don't bother to say thank you, will you!" In the second incident another young mum was getting off the train with a double pushchair. Someone waiting to join the train lent forward and helped lift the pushchair off, and was rewarded with a lovely smile and profuse thanks for their kindness and help. Two very different responses to help being offered!

It is so easy for us to forget just how well provided for most of us are in material terms, and therefore easy to forget to say thank you to God for our many blessings. In terms of so many in the world we are greatly blessed and Harvest is a great time for us to catch up on our often-missed opportunity to heap our thanks on God and to show our appreciation in practical ways!

It has been suggested many a time that the world can produce more than enough food so that no one needs to go hungry. The fact that so many in the world still go without an adequate and regular source of food and a clean source of water should haunt those of us who almost weekly see pictures on one programme or another of adults going hungry and children suffering the consequences of malnutrition.

Where political upheaval is the reason for such injustice then we can feel a sense of helplessness. But where the cause is of a more natural origin then at least we know that the aid agencies can provide a necessary life-line for those most in need, if they are well enough supported.

At this time of year when we celebrate the bounty of our harvests at home in our harvest festivals, where even in a bad year the worst effect on us the consumer is usually only price increases, it is easy to forget the increasing number of those in the UK, and yes, even in our own communities who, due to circumstances beyond their control and not of their making, find they have no food for themselves, or sometimes their children, for days at a time.

It is to help such people in crisis that Foodbanks have flourished, in recent years at an ever-increasing rate. I am proud that our church continues to support the Sutton Foodbank, though still deeply troubled and saddened that it is needed.

As we come to sing our beloved harvest hymns and songs let us truly give thanks that we are so well provided for. And please let us not forget those across the world - and in our own communities - who are not so fortunate, and do everything in our power to do something to help them as a sign of our gratitude for all we have.



FAMILY CIRCLE

Thank you for your prayers for our members who are unable to worship with us, who are housebound or in a home. We know that prayer can make such a difference to them, knowing they are in our thoughts. And so we ask for your continued prayers for all those mentioned in the September *Newsletter*.

The Women's Friendly Hour meetings began again on 6 September and we enjoyed an afternoon of creativity on the theme of 'The Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin'. It emphasised how important to God we all are, with nobody more important than another. Our favourite things were written on a section of puzzle piece and then joined together. This is on display on our notice board at the back of the church hall. Several members' birthdays occurred during the summer break, so we sang to them all and enjoyed delicious cakes with our teas and coffees. We are grateful to our minister Nik for her time with us and for a thought-provoking creative afternoon. We ask for special prayers for Nik as she faces an operation in October, and we pray for a good recovery.

There's a special mention for Alan Bugden this month who is celebrating his 65th year of membership of our church. (Details are given elsewhere in the *Newsletter*). And we remember too Mary Bugden, Joyce and Bert Mealing, Frank Kemp and Irene Smith. We offer special prayers for Elizabeth Baldwin whose son Mike is in a hospice in Brighton. Prayers for her strength and comfort as she visits him regularly. Also please pray for Pauline Jackson's husband Barry who is having special care at home. Our thoughts go to Pauline and her family. One of our WFH members, Joyce Nicholas, is very poorly at present in St Helier hospital, and her daughter is visiting her from Australia. Please pray for Carol and all the family. We ask for God's peace which passes all understanding at these difficult times.

Thanks to all who visit, take flowers or make phone calls to those unwell. We offer continued prayers for all our Circuit Ministers, lay preachers and those in training, for our Leadership Team with their responsibilities, and for our own church. Thank you for the support of all our members.

Please let me know of any pastoral news from your families and elsewhere for our next November *Newsletter*. Our readers are always keen to hear about church friends.

Mary Freeman

CHURCH NEWS

Alan's 65th

Long-standing member, Alan Bugden, has celebrated a remarkable landmark in his church life – 65 years as a member of Cheam MC. He first joined in October 1951, five months before the Queen took the throne. Alan told the *Newsletter* that in the 1950s his Sundays were dedicated to playing the piano for the Boys Brigade and the organ for the morning service, teaching at Sunday School, and playing the organ again in the evening. He continued to play the organ for the church for more than five decades. He has also undertaken other important roles in the church's life. During the years of Alan's

membership, more than 20 ministers have served at Cheam. Happily, Alan is still able to attend Sunday services, thanks to Bob Freeman who regularly transports him to and from the church.

Methodist Homes Sunday

A total of £156 was sent to MHA in response to this appeal in August. Many thanks for your generous donations. Copies of the quarterly MHA magazine, *Heart and Soul*, will be available later this month, so do pick one up from the table at the back of the church. Several CMC members hold MHA collecting boxes for use at home, but it would be good to have more collectors. If you are interested, please let me know. Thank you for your continuing support for Ryelands and MHA.

Jennifer Delafond

Flower Fund

Because fewer members and friends have been donating money for flowers, it has recently become necessary to transfer money from church funds to ensure there is enough to cover the cost of flowers in the church each week. Unfortunately, it would be difficult to continue such a drain on our funds. We would therefore be grateful for any donations to boost the fund, and they can be given to me.

Recent donations: 11 September, Glyn Alpe in memory of his son Simon; 18 September, Alberta Brown in memory of her Mum; and 25 September, Jenny Delafond in memory of her Mum and Dad.

We receive tremendous support from the ladies who buy and arrange the flowers each week, and their support is greatly appreciated.

Audrey Sauderson

Harvest gifts

Food donated for the Harvest Festival on Sunday 2 October will be passed on this year, as usual, to Sutton Foodbank. Preferred foods include: long-life milk and fruit juice, sugar (500g packs) tinned custard pudding, jars of pasta sauce, tinned meat and biscuits. Please ensure items have at least 6 months before the sell-by date.

Communion Stewards wanted

Communion Stewards have an important part to play in our services, and there are currently vacancies for the role. If you'd like to help, please talk to Esther Randall.

Sunday collections

Totals for recent collections were: 28 August, £471.90; 4 September, £236.35; 11 September, £220.00; 18 September, £189.55; and 25 September, £194.50

Christian Aid Autumn/Christmas Fair

Please make a note in your diary of our Christian Aid Fair on Saturday 26th November. As it is reasonably close to Christmas, we are planning to have a Christmas stall, as well as the usual cakes, gifts, toys, books, raffle and good as new stalls. We will be serving lunches of delicious soup, and sausage and bacon rolls, together with tea, coffee or soft drinks. Our tombola theme this year is snowmen. Please collect and save anything with a snowman theme – ornaments, pictures, tea towels, mugs, decorations etc.

There will be a list at the back of the church for you to sign if you are able to help, and a box for your donations. Many thanks,

Cynthia Brett Young

Remembering 1916

Our church has a special link with a major WW1 exhibition at the Whitgift School in Croydon which has been winning rave reviews. Stuart Peach, the father of Isabella (who attends our Tots group every Tuesday) has designed and built the exhibits in the show which has already attracted thousands of viewers. The exhibition tells the story of a pivotal year of the First World War which saw a number of significant battles, including the battles of Verdun and the Somme. Special praise has been offered for the detailed re-creations of a bombed-out cellar at Verdun, the British and German trenches at the Somme, and an Edwardian drawing room. The exhibition has proved so popular it has been extended to next April. Details are given in the website, www.remembering1916.co.uk

WHO'S WHO

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.

The full team is: Rev Nik Wooller, David Worthington (8644 5160), Mary Freeman (8644 3999), Brian Kingswood (8641 0016), Jane Wasbrough (8641 4304), Audrey Saunderson (8644 6911), Charles Ponnuthurai (020 8644 3367) and Tony Brett Young (8652 7622).