

CHEAM METHODIST CHURCH

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



NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2017

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Church Charity Number: SI 2655/2007

A MESSAGE FROM OUR LAY PASTOR

This Christmas time I have a real problem. Every year since I was 14, I have been invited to a New Year's Eve party by some very good friends of mine. I have only missed three. One because they cancelled as they had undercooked their Christmas

turkey and were unwell and twice because we were in New York. This year, they have decided to go away themselves and not have a party. The children are distraught because they love going to stay with Lisa's Mum at New Year and are worried we might want to do something with them instead.

Christmas and New Year are full of traditions. Some are so old we forget why we do them but we feel Christmas would not be Christmas if we didn't do them. My Mum used to make a Chocolate log. A few years ago, her eldest granddaughter started to help her make it. Now that my Mum is too frail to bake it herself, her granddaughter bakes it for her. Slowly over the years the design on the cake has changed. From one year to the next the differences would not be noticed but I am sure if we could find a photo of a log my mum made over 50 years ago it would look quite different to the one my niece will make this year.

In the sitcom, "Only Fools and Horses", the character Trigger, who is a street cleaner, gets an award from the council for looking after his broom. Trigger tells his friends the broom has had 17 new heads and 14 new handles. Philosophers since Plato have discussed whether an object is still the same object after all its parts have been replaced. What makes Christmas authentic? The Nativity play scene of baby Jesus asleep in a manger surrounded by Mary, Joseph, shepherds, wise men and angels probably never happened. The shepherds are mentioned only in Luke's account and the wise men only in Matthew's. The shepherds and wise men probably never met as Jesus could have been up to two years old by the time the wise men arrived. Christmas wreaths are a custom adopted from pre-Christian winter festivals celebrating eternal life. Turkeys are a relatively late arrival at the Christmas table.

At church, we will be having lots of events from Messy Church to midnight Communion and carol singing around the streets, to name but three. It will be a busy time. Hopefully it will be a joyful time too. Celebrating new life ought to be. However, for many of us, there will be moments of sadness as well. As we celebrate, we will miss people with whom we have shared past Christmases either because they have moved away or passed on. There will be exciting moments that will be tinged with sadness because we will wish we could share with people no longer around.

It will be my first Christmas as lay Pastor. There is a mixture of excitement and panic as I look at the programme ahead. There is the excitement of doing something new and there is panic about whether things will be done the way they ought to be. But how should things Christmas be celebrated? I think the answer to that is "Thankfully". Thankful for family and friends but especially thankful that Christmas is the time when God joined the human family.

John

FAMILY CIRCLE



Helen Janet Freeman 4.4.68 – 20.9.17

After a brave battle against Cancer, our dearest daughter Helen lost the fight and passed peacefully away at 2.10pm on the 20th September 2017. Bob and I were with her and the Chaplain at The Royal Marsden Hospital, Smithers Ward. Helen took communion with us the previous Thursday and the Chaplain said prayers and blessed her just before she died. During the last few weeks of her life, she had many close friends and family visit her and tell her how much they loved her. Bob, John (her brother) and I could not have wished for a better place for her to stay during her final days. The doctors, nurses and staff took such great care of her, and us as well.

We wish to thank everyone who gave us such comfort with all the many cards we have received, flowers and especially the prayers which upheld us during a most difficult time. We have been blessed by meeting and getting to know Helen's closest friends during this sad time and are so grateful to them as well. Hopefully we will continue to keep in touch with them as well. Thanks to the team of CMC who worked so hard to make Helen's Celebration Service and refreshments afterwards so successful. Our church was full, which showed how many lives Helen touched during her lifetime.

Thanks to all those who donated in memory of Helen for The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity and Macmillan Cancer Support. So far over £800. has been given and we can give a share to Smithers Ward where we had such wonderful care.

Special thanks to our Lay Pastor, John Dawson, who had a very busy day officiating at the Crematorium Service and afterwards leading our Celebration Service. Everyone said what a joyful service it was and heard the wonderful eulogy prepared so lovingly by our nephew Ivan. Please continue to pray for us on our loss of a lovely daughter, caring sister and wonderful mother to Conor, Tilly and Poppy. God bless you all,

Mary, Bob and John Freeman

It was lovely to see Grace and her daughter Christine at church recently. Grace now lives at Orford House, Woodcote Park, Meadow Hill, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 2XL. The telephone number of the home is 020 8660 2875.

If anyone wishes to visit Grace and needs directions to Orford House, please see Jenny Delafond or Christine Rippon.

It was also good to see Pauline Cleall, who with Eddie, was visiting the Rippon family. Pauline is a regular contributor to the church flower displays.

FAMILY PRIDE

We're always looking for items for the Newsletter and are pleased to share happy family news that we are proud to share on a regular basis. Maybe a school accolade, a sporting achievement, a career honour, community recognition, etc

Following the report in the last Newsletter, Colin is proud to announce that his grandsons, Josh and Sam Blake both won, together with their teams, the finals of their cricket matches.

Also, Josh travelled to Australia in his gap year, joined a cricket team and played a match all within his first week.

Christine and Peter Rippon report that during a wonderful time in Switzerland visiting their 6 month old granddaughter, Ella, they also attended the British Classical Car Show on the shores of Lake Geneva.

CHURCH NEWS AND CIRCUIT NOTICES

On 10th September at Epsom Methodist Church, John Dawson was commissioned by the Sutton Methodist Circuit as Lay Worker for our church. His family and several CMC members joined a large circuit congregation for the service which also commissioned Mr Chris Shaw as a member of the Epsom Ministerial Team. The sermon was given by Rev Rosemary Richter and the Rev Dave Dickinson oversaw the ceremony of commission.

A special service at Wallington Methodist Church on December 10th will recognize Alan Jameson's 60 years as a local preacher. A donation has been made by Cheam towards a collection to mark Alan's remarkable contribution to the worship ministry of the Circuit. It is hoped that our members will be able to attend the service and lifts can be arranged. The service will also recognize Judith Wakelin's 40 years of local preaching.

A message from local preacher, Nellie Showers...

'I would like to thank members of the circuit from the bottom of my heart for the response to my appeal following the catastrophic landslide in Sierra Leone. It was overwhelming. The shippers collected 55 large black sacks and 2 boxes of clothes (adults' and children's), books for children, toiletries, foodstuff, blankets, towels, shoes (children's and adult's) and various other items on Saturday 9th September. These items will be delivered to the Wesley Methodist Church in Freetown, where I was a member, for distribution to the victims.'

A message from Rev Mark Williams....

'I have been asked by the Sutton Older People's Involvement Group's Hospital Discharge Project if I could pass on details of their study. The aim is to improve the

quality of the experience the elderly have in being discharged from hospital. They want to know about both good and bad experiences.

The circumstances of discharge from hospital are a matter of serious concern to older people and that is now where the group's focus lies.

Here are the facts that would be helpful to receive and all is anonymous. Contact - giuliamd@hotmail.com

- Male/Female Age
 - How was your discharge handled? Were you given much notice?
 - What was your experience in the pharmacy or was your medication brought to you on the ward?
 - How was transport handled?
 - How was your after-care at home - if any?
- If any churches could help, we would be grateful.'

A message from Lucy Brown.....

'I am a local preacher and my husband Andy and I are in dire need of accommodation as our tenancy runs out on the 9th November 2017. Unfortunately Andy has recently been made redundant and so we are living on my wages only so the maximum rent we can afford is £800 pcm. Because Andy isn't working we won't pass standard letting agent vetting but do have guarantors and landlord references. If anyone has a place to rent or knows of one please get in touch with me on 07734823671 or email ycworker@yahoo.co.uk

Sutton Community Works Administration Support

Thank you for all you do already for Sutton Foodbank. We are now thinking about our Tesco Christmas Collection and seeking out any volunteers who are able to fill two hour slots between 10-4pm on Saturday 2nd December.

The tasks involve handing out leaflets to the shoppers and inviting them to donate to our food collection, collecting their donations, sorting it and then assisting in taking the food to the Big Yellow Store.

Thank you so much for your assistance and support for Sutton Foodbank, those who make use of the service really appreciate it.

www.suttoncommunityworks.org

SUNDAY SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER

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.

- **September 3rd** - Mrs Hannah Chun

Reading: Romans 12: 9 – 21

Love

An image entitled



from the 'Burning Man' Festival showing the inner child inside all of us. How would you interpret this image

- **September 10th** – Rev Gill Long

Readings: Exodus 12: 1 - 14

Romans 13: 8 - 14

Matthew 18: 15 – 20

'Reconciliation is costly but always done in real hope with joy awaiting those who persevere.'

'Taking a minute to talk or listen can change a life.'

- **September 17th** - Rev Dr Philip Richter

Readings: 1 Corinthians 9: 19 – 23

Romans 12: 3 - 8

- **September 24th** - Mr John Dawson

Readings: Jonah 3: 10 to 4: 11

Matthew 20: 1 – 16

Poem: Please sir, it's not fair! *Allan Alhberg*

"Everything will be all right in the end. If it isn't, then it is not the end yet!"

- **October 1st** - Mr Keith Halstead

'The authority of Jesus questioned.'

Readings: Exodus 17: 1 – 7

Matthew 21: 23 – 32

a) The wisdom with which Jesus exercised His authority

b) The completely independent nature of His authority

- **October 8th** - Revd Gill Long

Harvest Festival

Readings: Psalm 65

2 Corinthians 9: 6 – 15

Matthew 25: 14 – 30

'Though we don't sow or reap in the agricultural sense, we may cultivate other people's gifts and talents and tell them how wonderful God is.'

- **October 15th** - Mrs Val Imms

Readings: Exodus 32: 1 – 14

Philippians 4: 1 – 9

Matthew 22: 1 – 14

'Do we shape God into what we want and on our own terms? Are we so full of 'me'? So where is there room for God?

- **October 22nd** Mr John Dawson

Readings: Exodus 33: 12 – 23

Matthew 22: 15 – 22

“The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof.” Psalm 24

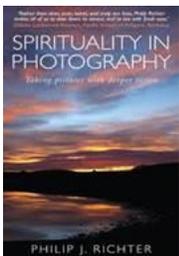
What belongs to God?

- 1) The Glory
- 2) The earth
- 3) Us – as being God’s servant to do His will and to be part of His family.

PRAYER TOPICS FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

- Pray for all who mourn the loss of their children
- Pray for those who care for people with disability
- Pray for the threat between China and the USA
- Pray for those killed and injured in Las Vegas
- Pray for stability in our government
- Pray for Spain and Catalonia
- Pray for reconciliation between North and South Korea
- Pray that the busyness of Christmas doesn’t get in the way of it’s true meaning

FEATURES



Rev Dr Philip Richter is a Methodist minister, currently serving as a Ministry Development Officer in the British Connexional Team. He is a keen amateur photographer, runs courses and writes about photography and spirituality. His new book explores how photography can offer unique perspectives on the self, the world and what we live by. Philip’s wife, Rosemary, is minister at Carshalton Methodist Church.



Cheam Park praised by judges in city-wide awards

Park users are celebrating after Cheam Park Recreation Ground was awarded a Gold in this year’s London in Bloom competition. The award in the Large Park category was a further improvement on last year’s Silver Gilt award. In the

50th anniversary of London in Bloom, judges praised Cheam Park saying it offered a tremendous resource to the residents of Sutton of which they must be very proud.

At the end of August Sue and I spent a week in Brixham, South Devon, staying at the Berry Head Hotel, the last building on the headland with beautiful views of the harbour and across the bay to Torquay.

Berry Head House, as it was then known, was completed in 1809 and was a military hospital for 64 patients, the Naval Fleet being based in Brixham and Torbay at the time. At the end of the Napoleonic War in 1823 the Navy moved out of Torbay and so the hospital closed.

It was then let to several tenants before the Rev Henry Francis Lyte and his wife secured the tenancy in 1833. They set about establishing the gardens and building up a library, generally considered to be the best in Western England, which included many rare books, some of which are now in the British Museum.

Lyte was a poet from an early age. He wrote many poems and hymns, his most famous being Praise, my soul, the King of heaven and Abide with me. The latter he wrote at Berry Head House in October 1847, just prior to leaving Brixham for Nice where he died a year later. When sitting on the terrace, it's easy to see how he was inspired to write such a moving hymn. It was sung for the first time by his parishioners at All Saints Church in Brixham when they heard of his death, and each evening the bells of the church rang the tune.

Following his death, the house remained in the possession of the family and was occupied by his daughter and her husband, Rev Hogg, who became the new vicar of All Saints. The house was a private residence until 1950 when it was sold and turned into an hotel.

Unfortunately, Sue and I didn't find All Saints Church, but as we intend to return next year, we will make it our top priority.

David Worthington

Ryelands Christmas Fair

15 Beddington Gardens, Wallington

Saturday 25th November from 2.00-4.00pm.

We hope to see you there but if you're unable to come, please support the event by buying a programme. These are available at the back of the church and cost £1 each (price includes tea or coffee. Any donations of home-made cakes, preserves, biscuits or sweets would be especially appreciated as due to ill health, the ladies at St George's are no longer able to bake cakes for the stall. Nik was also very generous in her

contributions of cakes in recent years, so unless we have more cakes, etc. from CMC members, the stall will be much depleted this year. Many thanks.

Jenny Delafond

NEWS FROM SEEABILITY



The Wild Cats Dramatic Society are performing their Christmas production of “**Cinders’ Fellas**” on Wednesday 6th December at the Fairfield Day Centre in Leatherhead and again on 13th December at the Millennium Centre, Wesley Road, Leatherhead. Both performances start at 2pm and all members and friends are cordially invited to either show. Lifts can be arranged so let Jane or Jenny

know.

SeeAbility Visit

Everyone is welcome to join us when the Community Access group from SeeAbility visit the church for light refreshments and Christmas carols on Monday 4 December at 10.30am.

CHURCH FLOWERS

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

Sept 3rd – donation

Sept 10th – Grace Hine’s family

Sept 17th - Alberta Brown in memory of her mum

Sept 24th – Jenny Delafond

Oct 1st – donation

Oct 8th & 9th – Harvest flowers from Mary’s sister, Jan & family in memory of Helen

Oct 15th – Mary and Bob Freeman in memory of Helen

Oct 22nd – Alberta Brown & Jenny Delafond

Oct 29th – Pauline Cleall

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS

September	3	£249.00
	10	£108.50
	17	£156.00
	24	£177.80
October	1	£154.30
	8	£398.20
	15	£166.70

22 £189.80

Please make sure that before you put your envelope in the Sunday collection bag it has your own number written on it

For your information...

A collection plate for the Benevolent Fund will be placed on the table at the back of the church on Communion Sundays. At the discretion of the Leadership Team, suitable donations will be made from it to worthy causes. On all other Sundays the plate is replaced to receive your Flower Fund donations.

Our Harvest auction raised £116 for 'All We Can' and the non perishable goods were given to Sutton Night Watch supporting the homeless.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

November

- Tues 7th 10-11.30am Cheam Tots parent/carer and toddler group
2.30pm Women's Friendly Hour – Arthur and Marian Strange – slides of Valencia Festival
- Tues 14th 10-11.30am Cheam Tots – parent/carer and toddler group
2.30pm Women's Friendly Hour – Claire Eaves
Manager of Trinity Homecare
- Sat 18th 2 – 4pm Christian Aid Christmas Fair



CHRISTMAS FAIR

RAISING FUNDS FOR CHRISTIAN AID

Saturday 18th November

2pm – 4pm

GIFTS ~ CAKES ~ TOYS ~ GAMES

RAFFLE ~ LOMBOLA ~ CRAFTS ~ REFRESHMENTS

- Tues 21st 10-11.30am Cheam Tots – parent/carer and toddler group
2.30pm Women's Friendly Hour – Peter Delafond
- 'SeeAbility's History in Film'

Tues 28th 10-11.30am Cheam Tots – parent/carer
and toddler group
2pm Women’s Friendly Hour
Colin Blake - Music CD’s

December

Sat 2nd 10-12.30pm Circuit Safeguarding Training Day at
Cheam
Sun 3rd 10.30am Gift Service – ‘Children’s Society’
3 - 5pm Messy Christmas – crafts and challenges
for ALL ages and, of course, there will be
cake!



Mon 4th 10.30am SeeAbility group’s Christmas visit
Tues 5th 10-11.30am Cheam Tots – parent/carer
and toddler group
10-11.30am Women’s Friendly Hour
Mollie Varcoe - Nonsuch Ringers
Sun 10th 6.30pm Circuit service at Wallington recognising
Alan Jameson’s 60 years and Judith
Wakelin’s 40m years as local preachers
Mon 11th 6.45pm Street Carol Singing – ‘Action for Children’
Tues 12th 10-11.30am Cheam Tots Christmas party
10-11.30am Women’s Friendly Hour
Stella Wallace - Silver Belles
Sun 17th 10.30am Carol Service followed by
Christmas Lunch
Mon 18th 6.45pm Street Carol Singing – ‘Action for Children’
Tues 19th 10-11.30am Women’s Friendly Hour
Members ‘ Afternoon with Carols
Sun 24th 10.30am Christmas Eve Worship
11.15pm Christmas Eve Communion
Sun 25th 10.30am Christmas Morning Worship

The content in the *Newsletter* is the responsibility of the Church Leadership Team.
Articles, news, ideas and comments can be emailed to jane.wasbrough@btinternet.com

SERVICES AT CHEAM METHODIST CHURCH

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Preacher</i>	<i>Service</i>
5 Nov	10.30am	Revd Roger Hoath	31 Ordinary
12 Nov	10.30am	Revd Gill Long (HC)	Remembrance Sunday
19 Nov	10.30am	Mr Richard Smith	33 Ordinary
26 Nov	10.30am	Mr John Dawson	Advent 1

The circuit plan has not yet been published but the preachers for December will be included in the service sheet as soon as we receive the details.

3 Dec	10.30am		Advent 2
10 Dec	10.30m		Advent 3
17 Dec	10.30am		Advent 4
24 Dec	11.15pm		Christmas Eve Communion
25 Dec	10.30am		Christmas Day Family worship
31 Dec	10.30am		

Minister Revd Gill Long is available by appointment to anyone who wants to talk about pastoral or other matters, including baptisms, weddings and funerals. Email: gill.long@methodist.org.uk

Lay Pastor: Mr John Dawson: Email: john@nonsuchcottage.me.uk

Tel: 020 8644 2331

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 Gill and John 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).

**The deadline for the January/February Newsletter is Friday 22
December**

