



# CHEAM METHODIST CHURCH

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

## NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2015/JANUARY 2016

Minister: Rev Nik Wooller – 01372 743182

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Church Charity Number: SI 2655/2007

### DEC/JAN SERVICES AT CHEAM METHODIST CHURCH

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Preacher</b>	<b>Service</b>
6 December	10.30am	Rev Mark Wakelin	2 Advent Holy Communion
13 December	10.30am	Mr Alan Jameson	3 Advent
20 December	10.30am	Rev Nik Wooller	Carols/gift service
24 December	11.15pm	Rev Nik Wooller	Midnight service
25 December	10.30am	Rev Nik Wooller	Christmas Day
27 December	10.30am	Local arrangement	1 Christmas
3 January	10.30am	Rev Nik Wooller	Covenant service
10 January	10.30am	Mrs Judith Wakelin	41 Ordinary
17 January	10.30am	Rev Mark Wakelin	42 Ordinary
24 January	10.30am	Mr John Dawson	43 Ordinary
31 January	10.30am	Mr Peter Thompson	44 Ordinary

### FOR YOUR DIARY

#### DECEMBER

Tues 1<sup>st</sup> 10-11.30am

Cheam Tots – parent/carer and toddler group

Tues 1<sup>st</sup> 2.30pm

Women's Friendly Hour – Tony Brett Young, *Tales of the Aristocracy*

Wed 2<sup>nd</sup> 8pm House Group meeting at Audrey Saunderson's home, 105  
Abbotts Road, Cheam

Mon 7<sup>th</sup> 10.30-12pm A visit by SeeAbility to Cheam

Tues 8<sup>th</sup> 10.00-11.30am Cheam Tots – parent/carer and toddler group

Tues 8<sup>th</sup> 2.30pm Women's Friendly Hour – Arthur and Marion Strange, *Sardinia  
and Corsica*

Sun 13<sup>th</sup> 7pm Street Carol Singing

Tues 15<sup>th</sup> 2.30pm Women's Friendly Hour – Stella Wallace, Silver Belles

Sun 20<sup>th</sup> 9.45am Prayer Meeting

Mon 21<sup>st</sup> 7pm Street Carol Singing

## **JANUARY**

Tues 5<sup>th</sup> 2.30pm Women's Friendly Hour – Rev Nik Wooller

Mon 11<sup>th</sup> 8pm Leadership Team Meeting at Audrey Saunderson's home, 105  
Abbotts Road, Cheam

Tues 12<sup>th</sup> 10-11.30am Cheam Tots – parent/carer and toddler group

Tues 12<sup>th</sup> 2.30pm Women's Friendly Hour – New Year Resolutions

Wed 13<sup>th</sup> 8pm House Group Meeting at Audrey Saunderson's home, 105  
Abbotts Road, Cheam

Thurs 14<sup>th</sup> 8pm Circuit Treasurers' Meeting, Great Tatts.

Sun 17<sup>th</sup> 9.45am Prayer Meeting

Tues 19<sup>th</sup> 10-11.30am Cheam Tots – parent/carer and toddler group

Tues 19<sup>th</sup> 2.30pm Women's Friendly Hour – Colin Blake, Musical Afternoon

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> Deadline for February *Newsletter*

Tues 26<sup>th</sup> 10-11.30am Cheam Tots – parent/carer and toddler group

Tues 26<sup>th</sup> 2.30pm Women's Friendly Hour – Roy Collis, *How Did They Know That?*

Fri 29<sup>th</sup> 8.00pm House Group Meeting at Mary Freeman's home, 14 Priory  
Avenue, Cheam

### **A MESSAGE FROM REV NIK WOOLLER**

I'm not much one for Monday morning meetings, but at the meeting I attended on the Monday following the shootings in Paris, the opening devotions were a reminder from Eddie Askew that if we really want to see a world ruled by peace then we must first be at peace with ourselves, with God and with each other.

Last week saw the big supermarkets launch their television commercials for Christmas each attempting new selling angles on Christmas - story lines of stress, pressure and

isolation. But don't worry, shopping in our supermarket will mean you don't totally crack under the pressure.

It leaves me wondering how can we redeem Christmas from all the stress and anxiety. Surely there has to be another way? I think the answer lies in Advent, the season of hopeful waiting, eager anticipation, joyful preparation for God coming - amazingly - into our lives.

Advent isn't Lent. In Lent we have a spring clean and clear out the rubbish. Advent, on the other hand, is about getting your home ready for a new arrival, a special guest, for Jesus, the Son of God. Lent is a season for confession and giving things up, but Advent is a time of preparation for a great celebration.

Advent prepares us for welcoming God afresh into our homes, our work, our schools, our everyday lives. It reminds us that Christmas is a time for rejoicing, a time for hoping, a time for God breaking in, a time for us to live the season of peace and goodwill to all, by making peace with ourselves, with our friends and neighbours. And with God.

There is much in our world and in our lives that may depress us, much more than pre-Christmas supermarket shopping. But the great news is that a Son has been born for us. Jesus is coming to show us just how much God loves us, and as he comes he will transform our lives, as he did for Mary and Joseph, the shepherds and kings. I hope you will capture the spirit of Advent, by sharing this prayer that opens every service at the church that sent me to you.

*Lord, let there be peace in our hearts and peace in your world. Amen*

I wish you all a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.



#### FROM THE SENIOR STEWARD

Lest we forget. November suddenly became a very sad month throughout the world. On 11 November we remembered those who sacrificed their lives in two world wars and other conflicts to keep civilisation secure. Then only two days later, we heard the devastating news of the Paris attacks which were supposedly carried out in the name of religion. They were a great shock to all of us, but how much do we realise what Muslims go through.

I read the following recently: "I am a Muslim, I pray five times a day and fast in the holy month of Ramadan. I help the underprivileged, I live in Lebanon, a beautiful country of 4 million people belonging to 17 different religions. There is high unemployment and only the privileged 15-20% of the people, such as me, can manage a decent life in our beautiful but ruined country. On 12 November, the day before the Paris attacks, Beirut suffered 3 suicide bombings killing 43, leaving orphaned children and widows. Most of the dead were Muslims and Christians. I don't blame anyone for not knowing about this. Are some lives worth mentioning more than others? These bombs weren't the first and won't be the last."

As we start our month of celebrations, let us not forget these people and others around the

world who suffer daily without major headlines. Please remember them in your prayers. I'd like to thank all those who made the Autumn Fair such a fantastic success, but especially Jane who put so much time and effort into it. The final figure was £700.96p. As you know, our major fair from now on will be in May and here's hoping all those involved will make it an even bigger success.

December, as you are aware, is a very busy period. There is a list at the back of the church for our annual Christmas lunch. Please sign up as soon as possible so we will know the numbers for catering. This will be on Sunday 20 December and will follow our carols and gift service. The midnight communion service on Christmas Eve will start at 11.15pm and our Christmas Day service is at 10.30am. All three will be led by Nik.

Due to the shortage of available Sundays before Christmas, our street carol singing has had to be changed this year. Our first outing will be on Sunday 13 December and the second on Monday 21 December, both meeting at 7 o'clock at the church. I do hope that you will be able to join us as the local community really seem to look forward to our singing and it is a great advertisement for our church. Lastly, the covenant service will be on 3 January at 10.30am.

Sue and I take this opportunity to wish you a very happy, peaceful and enjoyable Christmas and New Year.



<b>FAMILY CIRCLE</b>
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Thank you for your continuing prayers for Sally Brett Young, who has had her first operation and is now recuperating at home with Cynthia and Tony. The second operation is due in mid-January. We pray that each day she will get stronger as she faces that further challenge. Please pray also for Tony and Cynthia and their family. Bless all the skilled surgeons, consultants, nurses and staff who have all been so professional and caring. Our daughter Helen has now had her second chemotherapy treatment and apart from one 'hiccup' the treatment went well with the reduced dosage. Due to her adverse reaction to the first dose, Helen stayed in Croydon University Hospital for five days, during which the medical staff carefully monitored the procedures. We cannot speak more highly of the excellent care and delightful nurses and all the staff at the Royal Marsden Hospital where Helen is now being treated. Elizabeth Baldwin's son Mike is progressing well at present and has visited his mother this month. We would appreciate your continued prayers for them all.

Mary Bugden continues to be cheerful in spite of her pain from arthritis. Alan is able to come to church and to a monthly lunch at Ridge Road Baptist Church. Both Mary and Alan have carers who visit three times a day during the week. We offer our prayers also for Grace, Irene and their families, and for all those who are having treatment at present or waiting for an appointment.

Thanks to all who supported the Women's Friendly Hour when the Chantry Wind Quartet visited us recently to play. We had a most enjoyable musical afternoon.

Please pray for our minister Nik, her family and all the ministers and local preachers in our Circuit.

**Mary Freeman**

## CHURCH NEWS AND NOTICES

### **Family Fun Day**

Thanks to all who helped with, and supported, our last Family Fun Day on 26 October. Once again there was a huge response from our regular Fun Day friends as well as several new faces. Our theme was based on the countries taking part in the Rugby World Cup and the craft activities reflected this.

### **Autumn Fair**

In spite of the wet weather, our Autumn Fair on 14 November was very successful and raised a record amount compared with recent years. The work of organising it was shared out among several members this time and we were really pleased to see a high turn out of visitors. As the Leadership Team has decided to swap our two main fairs around next year, the church fair will be in the Spring and the Christian Aid fair in the Autumn. So, the next fair – entitled *The Spring Garden Fair* – will focus on everything associated with preparing a garden. So please keep that in mind when having a clear out – more details in the next *Newsletter*.

**Jane Wasbrough**

### **Ryelands Fair**

The Christmas Fair held at Ryelands on Saturday 21 November was very successful and it was great to have support from members and friends from Cheam. A record total of £2,500 was raised for the home's Amenity Fund and the cake stall run by Cheam and St George's took £161. Many thanks to all who made cakes or came along to help or support on the day - and a special note of thanks to Nik for baking so many wonderful cakes.

Please take a look at the poster from Sue Laflin, the Volunteer Coordinator at Ryelands, displayed on the notice board at the back of the church.

**Jenny Delafond**

### **Action for Children boxes**

Would you please let me have your home collection boxes for Action for Children so the donations can be counted and sent to the charity.

**Pauline Jackson**

### **Sunday collections**

Totals of recent collections were: 1 November, £199.60; 8 November, £227.42; 15 November, £192.45; and 22 November, £114.15.

If you pay tax but don't belong to the church's envelope scheme, please consider joining as it offers the church really valuable tax benefits, amounting to thousands of pounds each year. Charles Ponnuthurai, our Gift Aid Secretary, can give advice about this.

### **Flower fund**

Donations received for the church's flowers during the month were:

1 November, Pauline Cleall; 8 November, Mary Bugden in memory of her mother; 15 November, Flower Fund; 22 November, Penny Ball in memory of her mother, Miriam; and 29 November, Flower Fund.

Please remember that any donations for the fund, which pays for the flowers on display in the church each Sunday, are all appreciated. Please let me have any money – we are grateful for all donations.

**Audrey Saunderson**

### **News from SeeAbility**

A group of residents from the SeeAbility Centre in Leatherhead will be visiting our church on Monday 7 December at 10.15am for their regular 'Carols and Cakes' time with us. Please come along and support them if you are free.

In addition the Wild Cats Dramatic Society welcomes all members and friends to their Christmas production of *Lambs in the Wood* at the Fairfield Day Centre, Leatherhead on Wednesday 9th December or at SeeAbility's Millennium Centre in Leatherhead on Wednesday 16th December. Both performances begin at 2pm