



CHEAM METHODIST CHURCH

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

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 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>
4 June	10.30am	Rev Nik Wooller Holy Communion	Pentecost
11 June	10.30am	Mr John Dawson	Trinity Sunday
18 June	10.30am	Rev B. Alexander	11 Ordinary
25 June	10.30am	Mr Richard Smith	12 Ordinary

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

June

Sat 3 rd 2pm	Church Garden Fair
Tues 6 th 10-11.30am	Cheam Tots – parent/carer and toddler group
Tues 6 th 2.30pm	Women's Friendly Hour – Stella Wallace, <i>The Silver Belles</i>
Wed 7 th 8pm House	Group at Audrey Saunderson's home, 105 Abbots, Cheam
Thurs 8 th 7am-10pm	General Election
Tues 13 th 10-11.30am	Cheam Tots – parent/carer and toddler group
Tues 13 th 2.30pm	Women's Friendly Hour – Members' Afternoon
Sun 18 th 9.45am	Prayer Meeting
Tues 20 th 10-11.30am	Cheam Tots – parent/carer and toddler group
Tues 20 th 2.30pm	Women's Friendly Hour – Pauline Botting, <i>Sutton Street Pastors</i>
Tues 20 th 7.45 for 8pm	Churches Together in Sutton and Cheam, at CMC
Sun 25 th 11.45am	Leadership Team Meeting
Tues 27 th 10-11.30am	Cheam Tots – parent/carer and toddler group
Tues 27 th 2pm	Women's Friendly Hour outing to Denbies

July

Sun 2 nd 10.30am	Church Anniversary
Sun 2 nd 3.30pm	MHA Circuit Service at Ryelands

All events at Cheam Methodist Church unless otherwise stated. Deadline for the July/August Newsletter is Friday 16 June.

A MESSAGE FROM REV NIK WOOLLER

Dear friends

Each country has its own particular customs and traditions, unique to its life, history and culture. In Britain we have our own fair share, and many of them are associated with the countryside. Sadly some of them have died out, not least because of the advancements made in farming today compared with the labour intensive methods of previous generations. I am glad to see, however, that some of those old customs have undergone something of a revival in recent years.

Many of you will know that one of the places I lived in Sussex was Firle, one of a number of small villages along the A27. Many of my friends and neighbours had been part of the farming community all their lives with an intimate knowledge of the ways of the countryside.

It was in this setting that a custom surrounding *Plough Monday* (the Monday after Epiphany) was restored at our local church. On this day a hand-plough, the kind pulled by a horse and driven by the farmer, would be taken into the local chapel to be 'blessed' by the officiating minister. This symbolised the commendation to God of the ploughman's labour (no doubt a job done by some women too). It culminated with the words, "God speed the plough."

I believe this practice still speaks to us today about the future. It was the ploughman's role to take a long view of life and to see ends in beginnings. If he didn't plough in hope, he might as well not plough at all. Farmers today still have to look beyond the possibility of floods, frosts and droughts in the hope of a good harvest.

Christianity is really just like this. It is above all a Gospel of hope. Our furrows may be lonely at times, and the challenges of the world in which we live today are very real indeed, but they are not hopeless.

Like ploughmen, we too are concerned about the future. As Christian women and men our task is to plough peaceful furrows in order to heal a broken world, and to bring a harvest of hope to lives which may be lonely, sad, and disillusioned. Our labours should take us beyond ourselves and out into the world. Finally, let us never forget that God will use the work we faithfully offer in ways we cannot always see or understand.

Christ told a wonderful little parable about a seed growing silently, ready to germinate in the right conditions. God is at work in our lives, sometimes imperceptibly, but know this: HE IS AT WORK.

God Bless'

Nik

FAMILY CIRCLE

Congratulations go to Michaela and James Dawson on the birth of their daughter, Emily May, on Thursday 25 May. She weighed 3.1kg (6lb 12oz). Both mother and daughter are well, and big brother, Oliver, is thrilled with his baby sister. Delighted grandmother Penny Ball says Emily's arrival 'evens up the numbers – four girls and four boys.'

As most of our members and friends know, Tony and Cynthia Brett Young and their daughter Sally will be moving to Birmingham sometime towards the end of July. They will then be near their family, and I am sure it will not be too long before their support at a new church and involvement in the community will fill their time. We have been privileged to know them and have their friendship and support at our church at Cheam for nearly 40 years. The Leadership team and many others will miss them very much and hope and pray that God's blessings will go with them in their new place and ministry. We are very grateful for all the work and duties they have done here at Cheam.

Many thanks go to Jane who will be editing our *Newsletter*, and to Charles who is taking on the responsibility of Pastoral Secretary and Christian Aid representative. I pray that one of our members will feel able to take on the role of Safeguarding

representative. I am sure that Tony and Cynthia will keep in touch and we will of course be sending our *Newsletter* to them each month.

Other news is that Alan Bugden is now in St Judes Nursing Home in Sutton. When Mary visited him, he was resting comfortably. Mary tells us he has a lovely room overlooking the garden. Please pray for them both. Katie Rippon is now at home and improving each day, and was able to join Peter and Christine for a birthday lunch on Sunday, 21st May. We ask your prayers for Katie and her family.

Thank you for your continued prayers for Helen Freeman, and all those who are unable to worship with us including Helen Wright, Joyce and Bert Mealing, and Frank Kemp. For those families caring for loved ones, pray for Grace Hine and her family. Pray for our minister Nik and her family, Joe facing A levels and all young people studying for exams.

The Women's Friendly Hour Anniversary went well and thanks to all who came and supported us. Thanks too to all who visit, take flowers or make phone calls to those unwell, or housebound. Please pray for those who have been bereaved, especially those affected by the horrific bombing at the concert hall in Manchester. We pray for everyone in that great city, those who suffered and those who came to help. We ask God's comfort, strength and peace for them all.

Mary Freeman

CHURCH NEWS AND NOTICES

Manchester tribute

Our regular Tots group met just a few hours after the bombing horror in Manchester. Our Minister, Nik, captured the strong desire among the group to pay their tributes and to reflect on the event with the opportunity for all who wished to do so to light a candle in the church. Later in the day, those attending the Women's Friendly Hour meeting were also able to pay a similar tribute.

Best Sunday for Ages

The annual MHA Sunday appeal, being held this year on 4 June, has had a change of name, and will be known as Best Sunday for Ages. It is a very worthwhile cause with the money raised going towards providing a chaplain in every Home. Where possible, it also provides music therapy for people with dementia, a facility which has proved very helpful and beneficial. Please respond generously to this year's fundraising campaign, and I would be grateful if you could return your donations as soon as possible please.

Copies of the MHA magazine *Heart and Soul* with lots of information about MHA's valuable work are available at the back of the church. You may also wish to visit their website, www.mha.org.uk. Several Church members have MHA collecting boxes to keep at home for emptying once a year, but more collectors would be welcome. If you

are interested in supporting MHA in this way, please let me know.

Jenny Delafond

Christian Aid

The total for Christian Aid donations this year is £364.35, made up of £38.25 for Super Soup; £90 Count Your Blessings; £70 Easter flowers; £166.10 CA Week envelopes. Of the total, £138 has been gift aided. We also raised £645.86 at our last

Christmas Fair taking us to a wonderful total of £1,010.21 for this church calendar year. Thank you all so much for your support.

Cynthia Brett Young

Bible appeal

In our February *Newsletter* Christine Rippon appealed for Bibles for Nick Boddy who, as a prison visitor, sometimes receives requests for copies from some of the people he sees. Christine was delighted with the response and has given Nick 21 Bibles, 12 New Testaments, and 12 books of sermons and prayers. Nick wrote to thank Christine, and concluded his note with a verse from Matthew chapter 25, verse 36: "I was in prison and you came to visit me..."

Ryelands

Despite the changeable weather on Saturday 20 May, the Summer Fair at Ryelands proved to be a very successful afternoon attracting a good number of people, including our usual loyal supporters. The cake stall run by CMC and assisted by contributions from St George's, raised £140 of the total amount for the day of just over £2,000. Particularly popular was the large selection of cakes baked by Nik which sold like 'hot cakes'. Many thanks to all from Cheam who supported the event in person or by buying a programme.

SeeAbility News

Wild Cats Dramatic Society are presenting a production of *La Reunion* on two Wednesdays, 19 July at the Millennium Centre, Wesley Road, Leatherhead, and 26 July at the Fairfield Day Centre, Leatherhead. Both performances start at 2pm and CMC members are warmly invited.

Sunday collections

Recent Sunday morning contributions have been: 30 April, £178.50; 7 May, £252; 14 May, £170.90; 21 May, £199.41 and 28 May, £184. Please make sure that before you put your envelope in the Sunday collection bag it has your own number written on it.

Flower donations

The latest donations for the Church's floral displays have been: 7 May, Women's Friendly Hour; 14 May, Elizabeth Baldwin in memory of her son David; 21 May, Mary and Alan Bugden for their 67th wedding anniversary (on 20 May); and 28 May, Pauline Cleall.

Audrey Saunderson

FEATURE

Sir Simon Jenkins, in his book, *England's Thousand Best Churches*, has described St Laurence's Church, Ludlow, as 'five-star'. Many who visit this jewel in one of England's prettiest towns can't help but agree with his judgement.

The building of today has evolved over more than 800 years. Though mostly rebuilt in the 15th century, parts of the church date from 1199-1200. Its tower stands more than 40 metres high, but the top can only be reached by climbing 200 steps. If you're able to do so the views over mediaeval Ludlow, and of South Shropshire, are really worth it.

The huge chancel, built to accommodate priests and choristers, was designed and decorated to 'proclaim the majesty of God'. The choir stalls, for use by 'singinge men and singinge boys", have fascinating carvings including one of the dishonest ale-wife

who gave short measure to her customers and is shown clutching her jug as she is dragged to hell.

St Laurence has a superb garden, and even where there are paving stones, plants are encouraged to grow between the cracks.



The church is associated with my favourite English poet, A E Housman, whose ashes are interred in the shadow of the church walls. Housman is best known for his poem cycle of *A Shropshire Lad* in which there are frequent references to Ludlow:

*Or come you home on Monday
When Ludlow market hums
And Ludlow chimes are playing
"The conquering hero comes".*

Two cherry trees, recalling one of Housman's most famous poems, *Loveliest of trees, the cherry now*, were planted in the church grounds by the English and Japanese Housman societies.

The Church of St Laurence, Ludlow and Shropshire are all delightful and should be on everyone's must-see list.

Tony Brett Young

EDITORIAL CHANGE

After nearly four years compiling the *Church Newsletter*, this edition is my swansong as editor. Thank you to those who have contributed so conscientiously, and in such a

timely manner. Jane Wasbrough will be the new editor, in addition to her numerous other church duties, from the July/August edition. I'm sure she will have lots of new ideas and will appreciate your support and contributions as much as I have.

Tony Brett Young

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 Jane Wasbrough (8641 4304), Mary Freeman (8644 3999), Audrey Saunderson (8644 6911), David Worthington (8644 5160), Brian Kingswood (8641 0016), Tony Brett Young (8652 7622), and Charles Ponnuthurai (8644 3367).

Hall bookings

Audrey Saunderson 020 8644 6911

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 Jane Wasbrough on jane.wasbrough@btinternet.com

And a reminder that the deadline for the July/August double edition of the *Newsletter* is Friday 16 June.