



# CHEAM METHODIST CHURCH

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

## NEWSLETTER MAY 2016

**Minister:** Rev Nik Wooller – 01372 743182

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**Hall Bookings:** Audrey Saunderson – 020 8644 6911

[www.cheammethodistchurch.org.uk](http://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>
1 May	10.30am	Rev Nik Wooller	6 <sup>th</sup> Easter Holy Communion
8 May	10.30am	Rev Mark Wakelin	7 <sup>th</sup> Easter
15 May	10.30am	Rev Nik Wooller	Pentecost
22 May	10.30am	Mr Keith Halstead	Trinity Sunday
29 May	10.30am	Rev Brian Skinner	10 <sup>th</sup> Ordinary

## FOR YOUR DIARY

### MAY

Tues 3 <sup>rd</sup> 10-11-30am	Cheam Tots – parent/carer and toddler group
Tues 3 <sup>rd</sup> 2.30pm	Women's Friendly Hour – Members' afternoon. Prepare for Rally bring and buy
Wed 4 <sup>th</sup> 8pm	House Group at Audrey Saunderson's home, 105 Abbotts Road, Cheam
Thurs 5 <sup>th</sup> 6am-11pm	Hall in use for Mayoral election
Tues 10 <sup>th</sup> 10-11.30am	Cheam Tots - parent/carer and toddler group
Tues 10 <sup>th</sup> 2.30pm	Women's Friendly Hour – 81 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary Rally – David Greenwood, MAF (in the hall)
Thur 12 <sup>th</sup> 8pm	Circuit Leadership Team meeting at CMC
Sun 15 <sup>th</sup> to Sat 21 <sup>st</sup>	Christian Aid Week
Sun 15 <sup>th</sup> 9.45am	Prayer meeting
Sun 15 <sup>th</sup> 5.45pm	United Circuit Service at Epsom
Tues 17 <sup>th</sup> 10-11.30am	Cheam Tots – parent/carer and toddler group
Tues 17 <sup>th</sup> 2.30pm	Women's Friendly Hour – Rev Roger Hoath
Tues 17 <sup>th</sup> 8pm	Worship Leaders and Local Preachers' meeting with Holy Communion at Trinity
Wed 18 <sup>th</sup> 7.30 for 8pm	Circuit Meeting at CMC
Sat 21 <sup>st</sup> 2-4pm	Spring Garden Fair
Tues 24 <sup>th</sup> 10-11.30am	Cheam Tots – Parent/carer and toddler group
Tues 24 <sup>th</sup> 2.30pm	Women's Friendly Hour – Members' afternoon
Fri 27 <sup>th</sup> 8pm	House Group at Mary Freeman's home, 14 Priory Avenue, Cheam
Tues 31 <sup>st</sup>	No Cheam Tots
Tues 31 <sup>st</sup>	No Women's Friendly Hour

**All events at Cheam Methodist Church unless shown otherwise.**

## A MESSAGE FROM REV NIK WOOLLER

I'm writing this during the last week of April as we approach both the London Mayoral Election (5 May) and the EU referendum (23 June) with the results of both still looking to be uncertain. Through the television and daily papers we have heard about the different political party manifestos, what the candidates stand for and what they will do if elected. We have heard reasons to stay in the EU and what may seem to be equally valid reasons to leave.

Jesus Christ refused to be drawn into the politics of first century Palestine but he did challenge people to think about what values they lived by and how this not only affected themselves but others too.

Reflecting further on this, I was drawn back to a book of sermons by Henry Drummond, a Scottish preacher and Evangelist in the second half of the nineteenth century. In one sermon, *The Programme of Christianity*, he begins with a boy's question: "What does God do all day?" Later, he comments that whilst God is in all kinds of churches, he does not wait there for people to come and worship him. Jesus did not give people religion, he came to give new direction to people's religious aspirations. Jesus was critical of many of his contemporaries because they only paid attention to religious observances and not what they did with the rest of their life. The off-duty priest did not help the person attacked on the Jericho road.

The news often includes distressing stories about poverty in our world, about those affected by war and natural disasters, and about vulnerable people who have been exploited. In May, it will be Christian Aid Week (15-21 May), a timely reminder again of the inequalities and poverty that still continue in much of the world. The nearest thing that Jesus came to publishing a manifesto for how he wanted to change things, can be found in the record of his visit to his local synagogue in Nazareth, where he read these words from the prophet Isaiah:

*"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released,  
that the blind will see,  
that the oppressed will be set free,  
and that the time of the Lord's favour has come."* Luke 4:18

Henry Drummond comments that during his life Jesus cared for people much more than he did for religion and religious organisations. As we think about the current news, the continuing issues of world poverty and which way we should vote in the upcoming elections, we might strongly consider looking at the world 'through Jesus' eyes', then act as he would have done.

God Bless,

*Nik*

## FROM THE SENIOR STEWARD

*David Worthington, our Senior Steward, presented the following report for 2016 to the Church AGM on Sunday 24 April:*

In 2006 at a Circuit Review Meeting which looked at the future of all the churches within the circuit it was proposed that, due to a shrinking membership and dwindling attendances at services, CMC lacked a future and therefore should close and the premises be sold.

Well, as you will be aware, the few of us who were left felt this decision was completely wrong and that we could build our church up once again to be a focal point for the local community.

Ten years and five ministers on, next month on 18 May, Nik and I will again be meeting the Circuit Review Committee, only this time there will be a somewhat different approach as they have asked how they can help us go forward in the coming years.

Each of the past 10 years has seen us take small steps forward in some way or another – changes to the building, stronger relationships with the local school, providing accommodation to Sutton Schoolswork, setting up a website, Walks of Witness, special services followed by shared meals, family fun days, Messy Church, celebrating our 75th and 80th anniversaries, to list but a few. It has also been seen and noted just what a strong fellowship we have here, although sadly we have also said goodbye to some very dear members and friends over this period.

In the past year we have installed a new audio visual system. This is still in its infancy, so please bear with us as a group of us learn how to use it and overcome some of the hiccups. We have also moved our major fund raising fair from a Christmas-themed one in November to May, in the hope that we will avoid clashing with other fairs and the better weather will encourage greater attendance.

In September, regrettably, Nik will be starting her last year as our minister and it has to be said that, in no small way, she has been responsible for many of the changes.

Finally, I will be standing down as Senior Steward at the end of August this year. My golf swing has suffered over the years and my son-in-law can now beat me, so I think it's time to get out on the course more often.

My thanks go to you all for your support and hard work over the years, especially the incredible Leadership Team of Brian, Audrey, Eric, Mary, Tony and Jane and all who do so much to make this church tick. I couldn't have done it without you.



## FAMILY CIRCLE

Firstly, we thank Father God for always being with us on our journey of life, in all its joys and sorrows. We have news of three joyous events: we offer our congratulations to Sarah Saunderson and Trevor Ebdon on the birth of a son, Theo, on the 28 March. Theo is a new brother for Ellie, Audrey's granddaughter, and Poppy. Mum, Dad and family are all well.

Our congratulations go too to Scott and Tara Martin on the birth of their first child, Phoebe Faye Marion, on 15 April. Mother and baby are both doing well. Phoebe is Roy Collis' third great granddaughter.

Further congratulations go to Pauline Cleall's daughter Helen, and Asan, on the birth of a son Daniel on 8 April. Daniel is a brother for Emma. We ask God's blessings on all new parents and their families.

Our continued thoughts and prayers go to Corinna and Chris Kingswood. The funeral of their daughter Isabella was held early on Wednesday, 13 April with all the family there to support them. We pray for comfort, strength and peace for them, and for Margaret and Brian and their family. May they always feel God's presence.

There is hopeful news for Mary Bugden who is ready to return home from hospital when all arrangements for care and equipment are in place. As I write this, Mary was due to be home before the end of April. Our prayers go to her for continued strength for mobility and improvement each day. We also pray for Alan and give thanks to Bluebird carer, Ann, who has gone the extra mile to take Alan to visit Mary in hospital. She is also making all the arrangements for Mary's return home.

Lea Bradshaw, one of our WFH members, collapsed at home on Friday 15 April and was taken to St. Helier Hospital, but was able to return home six days later. Care and Meals on Wheels have been arranged for Lea when her son Keith and his wife Terry are not able to visit. Audrey and I do go to see her but at present will just contact her by phone. Please pray that Lea will stay safe and will receive more help if needed.

Sally Brett Young has had the wonderful news from her Greek surgeon that after her operations there is now no apparent sign of cancer. She was recently able to visit her friend Ruth Delafond who was home from India for a break. We ask for your continued prayers for Sally for strength and healing. Our daughter Helen is still doing well, and was due to attend the Marsden Hospital on 29 April. Thank you for all your continued prayers. It's good to see Sarojini Ponnuthurai back worshipping with us after her recent knee operation.

We pray for all our members who find life difficult at present due to health, or loss of memory, those who are awaiting treatment or operations, and those who have recently been bereaved.

Please pray for Nik, our minister and all circuit ministers and local preachers, and all who give their time to keep our Church running smoothly. Finally, we pray for all who spread the love of God by their actions, visits, and the help they give others in their daily lives.

Please remember to pass on to me any special news of your families for this article each month.

**Mary Freeman**

## CHURCH NEWS AND NOTICES

### **News from SeeAbility**

Some of you may remember sponsoring a fellow volunteer at SeeAbility, Maria Amato, to run in last year's London Marathon. Unfortunately she injured her foot before the race and could not compete. The sponsorship, to which some of you donated, was carried over and I can report that Maria completed this year's marathon, raising nearly £2,000. Many thanks to all who supported her magnificent achievement.

**Jane Wasbrough**

### **Spring Garden Fair**

With only a few weeks until our Spring Garden Fair gets under way, the horticultural donations are steadily coming in. Those who are planting cuttings, preparing hanging baskets, planting pots etc should bring them to the church during the week leading up to the 21 May. Jenny Delafond will be recruiting bakers to make scones and cakes.

We will also be having a range of our usual stalls, so donations do not only have to be following our garden theme – all gifts will be welcome.

Programmes have already been printed and allocated – thanks to Roy for producing them. On 15 May, the Sunday before the fair, there will be door to door delivery slips to distribute so please look out for them.

**Jane Wasbrough**

### **Methodist Homes Sunday 2016**

Ryelands Methodist Home would like to invite you to join them for their annual Methodist Homes Sunday service which is being held this year on Sunday 26th June at 4.30pm at Ryelands, 15 Beddington Gardens, Wallington, Surrey SM6 0JF. The theme for 2016 is 'Creating Communities that Care', and the service will be led by Rev Pamela Baker, one of the chaplains at the Home. Tea and cakes will be served after the service. Please come and join the residents and staff for this annual event.

**Rev Anne Rusbridge**

### **Messy Church**

Once again a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon of crafts, cake and worship was held on Palm Sunday. It was attended by many of our regulars but also some new faces. The Easter cross, made by Peter Delafond, and woven with coloured ribbons, was also a feature of our Easter Sunday morning service when the congregation was invited to attach their special prayers to the nails on the cross.. Thank you to all who helped during the afternoon and as always there are photos from Margaret Kingswood on the noticeboard.

**Jane Wasbrough**

## **Sunday collections**

Totals of recent collections were: 31 March, £255.86; 3 April, £188.20; 10 April, £231.00; 17 April, £208.72; and 24 April, £183.50.

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 recently received for the church's flowers were:

3 April, Pauline Cleall; 10 April, Pauline Jackson; 17 April, Pauline Cleall; and 24 April, Elizabeth Baldwin in memory of her daughter..

Thank you to all members and past members who donate money for flowers to appear in our church each Sunday. If you'd like to contribute please give your donations to me.

Thank you too to all who donated and wrote in the memory book for the Easter lilies. The amount donated came to £53.50.

**Audrey Saunderson**

## **Called by Name**

The Methodist Church of Great Britain has launched an updated resource to help new, existing and potential Methodists with their journey of faith. *Called by Name* is a fully-illustrated book including hymns, prayers, Christian art and images from contemporary life for those considering membership in the Methodist Church or for those who wish to refresh their understanding of Methodism. It explains the distinctive meaning of the Methodist Church, and covers topics including God's inclusive love, Wrestling with faith and Our Calling as well as information on further resources.

Copies priced £3.95 can be ordered from the Methodist Publishing web site [methodistpublishing.org](http://methodistpublishing.org)

## **Our Jacqui**

In a heart-warming post-script to the item from Jenny Delafond in the April *Newsletter*, Jenny has shared the following with us:

"When Anne Rusbridge and I were at a meeting at Ryelands last week, I gave her a copy of the poem *Pattern of Prayer* which had been included in the April *Newsletter*. Anne was very interested to see it, read it through and when she noticed that the textile artist was Jacqui Parkinson, said: 'I wonder if that's Jacqui Frost!' It had never occurred to me that it might be that Jacqui, but Anne later Googled the name and she was quite right! I am so pleased that I took a photo of the tapestry and made a note of the artist's name - and of course, the poem has become even more special to me now.

I've since had a look at Jacqui's website myself – [jacqui-textile.com](http://jacqui-textile.com) - and emailed her to let her know how I discovered that Jacqui Parkinson is the Jacqui Frost that we all know.

This is Jacqui's reply:

*... lovely to hear from you Jenny ... and thank you so much for your email ... really appreciated ...*

*... it is a small world isn't it ... I remember Cheam as a happy time with two little boys and a friendly church ... and working with the young people ..... do say hello to friends there ...*

*... I have just finished a large piece of work on Revelation and will send you a brochure, Jenny ...*

*... thank you for contacting me ... lots of love ... Jacqui x*

As Jacqui rightly says, it is a small world! I'll report back when I receive the brochure on Revelation - I'm sure it will be just as beautiful as the Pattern of Prayer tapestry."

## FEATURE

### **The village where time stopped**

Abandoned churches are usually quite sad places, but Cynthia and I recently visited one which represented the even sadder story of an entire Dorset village where the residents had been forced out against their will. Tyneham, a farming village east of Lulworth, was requisitioned by the Army in 1943 because of its proximity to training grounds. The villagers were moved to other accommodation and were told that when the War Department had no further use for their property they would have the right to return.

It never happened, and the houses now all stand derelict. The village is closed for most of the year as the Army still struts its stuff nearby, but at weekends, and in August, the deserted village is open to visitors.

St Mary's Church has been beautifully restored for use as a museum which tells the sad story of the village. It has the names of former villagers displayed in tiles around the walls, and a sad note which was pinned to the church door when they left, asking the Army to treat their homes kindly.

And in a poignant postscript to the story some of the former residents who were never able to return in life have finally returned in death, and are buried in the churchyard.

***Tony Brett Young***