



# CHEAM METHODIST CHURCH

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

## NEWSLETTER

**MAY 2017**

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

revnik@live.co.uk

**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>
7 May	10.30am	Rev Nik Wooller	4 <sup>th</sup> Easter Holy Communion
14 May	10.30am	Mr Keith Halstead	5 <sup>th</sup> Easter
21 May	10.30am	Rev Nik Wooller	6 <sup>th</sup> Easter
28 May	10.30am	Mr Ernest Tsui	7 <sup>th</sup> Easter

<b>DATES FOR YOUR DIARY</b>
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**May**

Tues 2 <sup>nd</sup> 10-11.30am	Cheam Tots – parent/carer and toddler group
Tues 2 <sup>nd</sup> 2.30pm	Women’s Friendly Hour – Members’ Afternoon, preparing for rally
Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup> 8.00pm	House Group at Audrey Saunderson’s home, 105 Abbotts Road, Cheam
Mon 8 <sup>th</sup> 8.00pm	Leadership Team Meeting at Audrey Saunderson’s home
Tues 9 <sup>th</sup> 10-11.30am	Cheam Tots – parent/carer and toddler group
Tues 9 <sup>th</sup> 2.30pm	Women’s Friendly Hour – Anniversary Rally, Speaker David Carter (Mercy Ships), and Nonsuch Ringers
Sun 14 <sup>th</sup> – Sat 20 <sup>th</sup>	Christian Aid Week
Tues 16 <sup>th</sup> 10-11.30am	Cheam Tots – parent/carer and toddler group
Tues 16 <sup>th</sup> 2.30pm	Women’s Friendly Hour – Rev Mark Williams
Tues 16 <sup>th</sup> 8.00pm	Leaders of Worship and Preachers’ Meeting at Cheam MC
Wed 17 <sup>th</sup> 8pm	Circuit Meeting at Carshalton MC
Sat 20 <sup>th</sup> 2-4pm	Ryelands Summer Fair at Wallington
Sun 21 <sup>st</sup> 9.45am	Prayer Meeting
Tues 23 <sup>rd</sup> 10-11.30am	Cheam Tots – parent/carer and toddler group
Tues 23 <sup>rd</sup> 2.30pm	Women’s Friendly Hour – Geoffrey Hine, First Aid
Fri 26 <sup>th</sup> 8pm	House Group at Mary Freeman’s home, 14 Priory Avenue, Cheam
Tues 30 <sup>th</sup>	No Cheam Tots
Tues 30 <sup>th</sup>	No Women’s Friendly Hour

**June**

Sat 3 <sup>rd</sup> 2-4pm	Garden Fair
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**All events at Cheam Methodist Church unless otherwise stated. Deadline for the June Newsletter is Friday 19 May.**

<b>A MESSAGE FROM REV NIK WOOLLER</b>
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Dear Friends,

Over the Easter break my family and I went to see the new live-action version of *Beauty and the Beast* – we all loved it!

It strikes me that like many of our folk tales and fairy stories, it has a theme of redemption, of lives changed through love and acceptance. The Beast suffers the consequences of his selfishness and arrogance, but is transformed by Belle’s love and persistence, despite how badly he has treated her. It’s a theme we humans

seem to need in our stories – I'm sure you can think of many others, ancient and modern where people are changed through love.

Of course, from my Christian point of view, this is the overarching story I read through the bible – God wants to redeem the world, and each human person. God longs for us to have life, abundant, joyful, fulfilling life.

Time and again characters who seem, like us all at times, to be pretty hopeless cases are enabled to do amazing things – vain, arrogant Joseph saves a nation and his own family from famine; impetuous, gung-ho Peter comes through denial and abandonment of Jesus to lead the early church; and so many more.

The message for me is that if we share unconditional love and acceptance – God's grace, which has been given to each of us - we can change the world one broken person at a time. Of course such grace, such love, costs – we leave ourselves open to betrayal, to pain, to being ignored and utterly unappreciated and taken for granted. It cost Jesus all this and so much more as we have just remembered over Easter. But ask anyone whose life has been changed by someone loving them unconditionally – it is an amazing way to unlock a person from the prison of thinking they are unloved and unlovable.

It's a tale as old as time.

God Bless

*Nik*

## MINISTERIAL NEWS

At the Sunday service on 23 April, the District Superintendent, Rev Dave Dickinson, confirmed the arrangements for the replacement of our present minister, Rev Nik Wooller, when she leaves for Scotland in August. For the next three years from September our good friend, Rev Gill Long, will serve as our eucharistic minister taking services to include Holy Communion once a month and will chair our Council meetings. She will share duties with the recently-appointed local preacher, Mr John Dawson, who will be our part-time lay preacher, and will have pastoral responsibility for the church. He will be available at the church at least twice a week, and as Dave described him, he will be our 'principal worker and our face in Cheam'. John will also be able to take baptisms and funerals. He will continue his theological studies and will have the support of Rev Rosemary Richter, the Minister for Carshalton, Banstead and St George's Churches.

## A PRAYER

This is from Andrew Lunn, Manchester and Stockport District Chair:

*Liberating Lord, under the burden of your cross you walked free of constraint:  
And by your resurrection you lead us into the glorious freedom of the  
children of God.*

*As you free us from fear, let us live out your love;  
as you free us from anxiety, let us live in your joy;  
as you free us from hatred, let us live in your peace;  
as you free us from shortness of temper, let us live with your patience;  
as you free us from callousness, let us live by your kindness;  
as you free us from greed, let us live with your goodness;  
as you free us from violent impulse, let us live with your gentleness;  
as you free us from inconstancy, let us live through your faithfulness;  
as you free us from disobedience, let us live in your self-control.*

*Amen*

Andrew's prayer is from the blue prayer handbook of The Methodist Church called *Freedoms to Share*. If you have not already taken one to read, please do so as they are on table at the back of the Church and help with our daily devotions.

## FAMILY CIRCLE

We are pleased that Christine and Peter Rippon have been able to spend a weekend visiting their granddaughter, Ella, in Switzerland, and to learn that baby and parents are coping well.

At the time of writing, Katie Rippon was in hospital for further tests and we pray she continues to get stronger each day. Alan Bugden is in hospital again following an operation and is recovering in Ward A5 at St Helier Hospital. He had been home for three weeks after his hip operation when he suffered chest pains which led to his operation. Please continue with your prayers for Alan and Mary who always welcome visitors. We pray too for our members and friends who are unable to worship with us, including Joyce and Bert Mealing, Frank Kemp and Helen Wright.

We remember all who have lost loved ones, and ask for comfort for them, and for family and friends. Prayers for healing for Sally, facing another operation in May. Our daughter Helen's recent scans were satisfactory, and her treatment will continue every three weeks. Please pray for strength and comfort for those facing operations and those in need.

Church friends are invited to the Women's Friendly Hour's 82nd Anniversary Rally on Tuesday 9 May at 2.30pm. Details are on the board at the back of the Church. Please let Christine or me know if you are able to come so we can cater appropriately.

Again, many thanks to all who provide the lovely flowers for the Church and those who arrange them. These are given to those unwell, and to WFH speakers and to ministers. Please pray for our minister Nik and her family, all ministers and lay preachers, especially Rev Gill Long and John Dawson who will have responsibility for the spiritual and pastoral care of our Church from September. Thanks to all who contribute to making our church at Cheam a caring, welcoming and supportive one.

**Mary Freeman**

## CHURCH NEWS AND NOTICES

### Easter walk of witness



Photo: Margaret Kingswood

A small group of church members met at North Cheam on Good Friday to carry the church cross down Church Hill Road in time for the start of our Good Friday service. In this increasingly secular age we believe it is increasingly important to proclaim publicly our faith and to demonstrate to others the true meaning of Good Friday.

### Garden fair – 3 May 2-4pm

After the success of last year's fair this year's theme will again be the garden. We're appealing for anything remotely connected to gardens as well as the usual donations. Each week there will be a box in the church for such items. Also, please consider buying (or growing) a tray of bedding plants for planting in baskets or containers and bring them to the church this month. If anyone can help plan the fair, please tell one of the stewards. Nearer the time there will be lists to sign for stall

holders and scone donations for the cream teas. Now that we have the new patio doors in the hall, we hope to use the outside area this year.

### **Sunday collections**

Recent Sunday morning contributions have been: 2 April, £200.00; 9 April, £153.35; 16 April, £247.11; and 23 April, £193.20.

### **Flower donations**

Recent donations for the Church's floral displays have been: 2 April, Pauline Cleall and family who give thanks for Katie Rippon's amazing recovery; 9 April, again Pauline Cleall; 16 April, Easter Lilies money; 23 April, Dr Donald R Hamilton in memory of Simon Alpe, a fellow student and scholar at Heidelberg University, as well as his late mother. He also sends his kind wishes for a blessed Easter celebration to the Alpe family and their fellow congregants. And finally, 30 April, Elizabeth Baldwin in memory of her daughter.

### **Easter Lilies**

Thanks to all who wrote in the CMC Book of Remembrance and for the donations given towards the lilies.

### **Interesting reading**

Please take any of the magazines and leaflets on the table at the back of the Church. These include: the yearly copy of the *Methodist Prayer Handbook*; the monthly copy of *Inspire Magazine*; and the quarterly copy of the *Methodist Church Connexion Magazine*.

### **Voucher appeal**

If you have any spare Sainsbury's *Active Kids* vouchers Jennifer Evans is still collecting them to give to her granddaughter. Please pass them on to Jennifer or to me.

**Audrey Saunderson**

### **Ryelands summer fair**

The summer fair at Ryelands MHA, 15 Beddington Gardens, Wallington will be held on Saturday, 20 May from 2-4pm. The Friends of Ryelands group who organise and run this event, hope it will be an enjoyable and successful afternoon for visitors and residents. We hope you will be able to come and support the event, but if this is not possible, please buy a programme - these cost £1 each (available at the back of the church). The price includes a tea or coffee, and all proceeds go to the Home's Amenity Fund.

As usual, we make a special request for donations for the cake stall to be given to May Freeman or myself on or just before the day please. Home-made cakes, sweets, preserves, etc would be very much appreciated so that the stall is well stocked with tempting goodies. Thank you.

**Jenny Delafond**

## FEATURE

As I think most of you know, David and I spent the Easter weekend on Jersey with Caroline, Javier, Linda and Rob. While driving round the island we were intrigued to see cut-out butterflies hanging from trees, bushes and on fences. Like all good Methodists we visited the local vineyard for a tour and wine tasting, and it was in the car park that we collected our own colourful butterfly with its Easter greetings. It certainly raised a smile when we discovered it had been left by the Jersey Methodist Church – in the vineyard carpark.

In St Aubin we came across two young girls of about 8 or 9 selling home-made Easter cards, bunnies and crocheted eggs to raise funds for the local hospital. They'd just sold their last card, but I was told if I came back in 20 minutes a new one would be waiting for me. After a leisurely lunch we weren't surprised to find that the girls had shut up shop and gone home, having raised about £80. However, one of them must have been watching for us as she suddenly appeared from her house with my card. It was then that she told me that she has only one kidney and this is now failing. She is waiting for a transplant. I can only hope and pray that she doesn't have to wait too long, and that her operation will be a complete success.

We just wanted to share these reminders of our very happy, and moving, weekend on such a pretty island.

**Sue Worthington**

## WHO'S WHO

### **Minister**

Rev Nik Wooller. Telephone: 01372 743182; Email: [revnik@live.co.uk](mailto: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 David Worthington (8644 5160), Mary Freeman (8644 3999), Brian Kingswood (8641 0016), Jane Wasbrough

(8641 4304), Audrey Saunderson (8644 6911), Charles Ponnuthurai (8644 3367) and Tony Brett Young (8652 7622).

### **Hall bookings**

Audrey Saunderson 020 8644 6911

**Safeguarding representative**

Tony Brett Young 020 8652 7622

**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 Tony Brett Young at [abrettyoung@hotmail.com](mailto:abrettyoung@hotmail.com) or you can ring him on 020 8652 7622.

**And just a reminder, the deadline for the June *Newsletter* is Friday 19 May.**