

**MOTTINGHAM METHODIST CHURCH  
MESSENGER  
DECEMBER 2017**



**FOR UNTO YOU IS BORN THIS DAY IN THE CITY  
OF DAVID A SAVIOUR, WHICH IS CHRIST THE  
LORD.**

**LUKE 2 VS 11**



### LETTER FROM ALEX:

Over the past few weeks Christmas has well and truly arrived, in the shops, on TV and we are even assured by Tesco that there is 'a turkey, for everyone.' As most of you will know I live in a household full of men, and as you can imagine purchasing gifts, especially at Christmas is a complete nightmare, nobody ever knows what they want! In days gone by, if we wanted something special then birthdays and Christmas were the times when those dreams could be fulfilled, something that we could look forward to. Perhaps now-a-days when we want something we go and get it. The waiting has gone, so what can we give to those who seem to have it all?

I wonder, if you were asked, what the most exciting present you've ever received is. What stands out in your memory? I think for me it would have to be a toy wooden caravan that my dad made for me one Christmas when I was young. It had handmade wooden furniture inside, and even a fold down bed that was just like the real thing. My Nan had knitted and made all the bed linen and curtains. I had hours of fun playing with it, and still have it tucked away somewhere for when I have some grand children of my own. I wonder what makes a gift special. Is it that the person that gives it is special, it being just what we wanted? Is it the surprise factor or even because it cost a lot of money? It's wonderful to be given presents, and some people do spend a lot of money on us and that's very generous of them, but what really matters when we receive a gift is not how big or expensive it is, but the fact that someone thought enough of us to want to give us a gift. I wonder are there things that you are hoping for this coming Christmas. But just pause for a moment - how can we give to those we care for this Christmas? Giving

can take many forms; we can give our time, our help and most importantly our love.

The wonderful news every Christmas is that we are given that very special gift of a baby, God's son who came to show us a better way of living and that no matter what happens His love for us is constant and He works for the good in everything. Finally, take a look in a mirror. That's what God wants for Christmas - You!

I wish you all a very peaceful and happy Christmas  
Alex



**SUNDAY 3 DECEMBER,**

Anthems and Readings Advent Carol Service at St Andrew's at 4.00pm

**SATURDAY 9 DECEMBER** Messy Christmas & Carol Singing outside Nisa from 10.00-11.00am

**THURSDAY 14 DECEMBER,** Carol Service at St Alban's at 7.30pm

**SUNDAY 17 DEC**

Christingle, at St Andrew's at 4.00pm

**SUNDAY 17 DEC**

Carols by candle light at Mottingham Methodist Church at 5.00pm

**THURSDAY 21 DECEMBER** Churches Together In Mottingham Carol Service at Andrew's at 7.30pm

# **SATURDAY NIGHT YOUTH CLUB**

## **ELAINE HODGE'S REFLECTION**



The Youth Club was started in the late 1950's by my dad Ernie Lake. It ran on a Thursday and Saturday night with a table tennis table, dart board and a large snooker table in the vestry.

I joined as a member in 1969 and Tony, my husband, joined in 1971 and did his youth leader training a few years later. During the 90's we stopped running the club on a Thursday evening and concentrated on a Saturday night.

The format has, of course, changed drastically over the years. During the 60's and early 70's it just had a record player with 45's in the corner, after the "box" was built by the Mottingham Players (the drama group made up of church and club members) club took on a more disco theme and currently we run with team games and music. We feel exceptionally honoured to be connected with club and with God's help and guidance we hope to be able to keep offering a safe and enjoyable environment for young people.

To give you a better idea of what club is today we asked one of our members to write an article of what club means to him. Kieran is 17 and one of our most loyal members.

# **SATURDAY NIGHT YOUTH CLUB**

## **KIERIN LOGHLIN'S REFLECTION**

I have been going to the Saturday Night Youth Club since 2013. A regular night of the youth club starts at seven o'clock. Two members become captains and take turns choosing their team. The teams compete in various games and accumulate points. People are able to talk to friends and new people they

haven't necessarily spoken to before in and out of the games. Once the games have finished the team with the most points wins and each member of the winning team then has an opportunity to take part in a raffle, with prizes from the tuck shop to win.

The DNA of the club that makes

it so successful is Tony and Elaine who voluntarily run the club every week. Every week they never fail to bring so much energy and passion to our club through their organisation and supervising. Their warmth and humour never fails to shine and they are very approachable and easy to talk to, creating an inviting and relaxing environment.

The Saturday Night Club is a place where people can talk and have a laugh in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere. The club has given

me an opportunity to talk to my friends every week and has also allowed me to make new friends. Every week the club has been a constant in my life I can always rely on to feel happy and have a laugh.

In these ways I believe Saturday Night Club has boosted my confidence and ability to socialise so is undoubtedly the highlight of my week. The fond memories and experiences I have had there makes club priceless to me, so is great value for the pound I pay every week.



## THE FORGOTTEN FATHER: JOSEPH THE CARPENTER

Good old Joseph - the vital but often overlooked character in all those Nativity plays, who still has so much to say to dads today. There he was, described in the Bible as an honourable guy, engaged to an honourable and celibate young woman when he found she was pregnant! Should they call the marriage off? His big test of faith - and love for Mary - came when an angel said the Holy Spirit was creating a special Son. Joseph honoured God and honoured Mary, curbing his 'conjugal rights' and caring for her through their journeys and the birth of Jesus.

Clearly he was an unselfish man and deeply devoted to Almighty God. To quote one commentator, he went through a roller-coaster ride of emotions; happily engaged, then dramatically facing a broken relationship, to be quickly followed by marriage without love-making and the arrival of an extraordinary child. Never once do we see him shout or complain. He is more concerned to care for his beloved Mary and their precious new son, more aware and devoted to God than he is to himself.

When Jesus Christ enters any life, the experience can echo the arrival of a new baby. It can be emotional and life-changing; old values and priorities are replaced and ambitions and self seem less important. But, deep down, we realise it is such a good change, such a positive enrichment of our lives, our loves and our purpose. Like Joseph, we can rejoice in the arrival of the Christ child and relish a life spent loving him.



ONCE A MONTH CONGREGATION  
CALLED MESSY CHURCH  
MESSY CHURCH REMEMBERS



The poppies, and the medal given to the families of soldiers who died in the Wars reminded us that the soldiers died so that our country could be free. The poppies on the cross reminded us that Jesus died on the cross also to set us free but this time from our sins.

## DECEMBER DIARY OF CHURCH SERVICE PREACHERS

**Sunday 3 December at 10.30am** – Messy Church: *Alex Terrett*  
Messy Church is preceded by breakfast

**Sunday 10 December at 10.30am** – *Ralph Brandhorst*

**Sunday 17 December at 10.30am** – *Maureen Spink*

**Sunday 24 December at 9.30am** – Holy Communion - *Alex Terrett*  
Followed at 10.30 by a service of 9 Lessons and Carols

**Christmas day, Monday 25 December at 10.00am** - *Alex Terrett*  
Christmas day family service – Bring your presents!

**New Year's Eve, Sunday 31s December**  
Reflection & Praise Service.



## Church Calendar of Events

### Messy Church

Sunday 3 December at 10.30am:  
Theme - Celebrating Christmas  
This is preceded by breakfast

### Prayer meeting

Wednesday 6 December at 7.30pm: At the house of Eddie and Dallas Green

### Good Companions

Tuesday 12 December at 10.30am: Christmas Party

### Community Lunch:

Wednesday 13 December Christmas Lunch **TICKET ONLY**

Wednesdays 20 & 27 December **CANCELLED**

**December All Sorts Craft Group** **CANCELLED**

### Saturday Youth Club

Every Saturday from 7-10pm for 9-14 year olds

# IN AND AROUND MOTTINGHAM

12<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER - MOTTINGHAM REMEMBERS



Well over 200 residents of Mottingham attended the Annual Service of Remembrance organised by Churches Together in Mottingham. The service was held on the forecourt of Warrs, the Harley Davidson garage. Councillor David

Cartwright led representatives from the churches and other organisations as well as individuals in the laying of wreaths.

The weather was kind though very cold.

Thanks go to Warrs' for allowing the use of their forecourt, to the Mottingham Band for all the music, to the police for keeping the area free of traffic, to those who arranged the service and who managed the coffee stand, to Revd Ian Walsh and Revd Alex Terret for leading the service and to all those who attended the service.



## MOTTINGHAM LIBRARY IN DECEMBER

### BROMLEY AND GREENWICH COUNCILLORS' SURGERIES

Friday 1 December from 6.45-8.00pm.

### CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING

Wednesday 13 December from 10.30am to 12noon. A small choir from Dorset Rd Infant School will share Christmas music with us.



## FRIDAYS AT MOTTINGHAM LIBRARY

Friday 22 December from 6.15 to 7.30pm' Mysterious Maryebone, 2 Waxworths & Weddings



*in our villages,  
towns and cities*

**CALL TO PRAYER -  
2018**

*Churches across the  
UK are preparing for*

*mission together in 2018 to make Jesus known. 'Friday Focus 2017' provides the opportunity for us to pray where we are, and unite across our nation on Fridays (whenever possible), supporting all on-going mission across the UK and preparing the way for HOPE 2018*

### **December 1 Hope for enquirers**

1 Peter 3:15: Pray that we are prepared to give an answer when we are asked about our faith

### **December 8 Christmas HOPE**

Luke 2:16-18: Pray that we will be ready to spread the news of Jesus birth this Christmastime

### **December 15 Christmas outreach and carol services**

Acts 26:27-28: Pray that we will wisely use every opportunity to speak to people about the message of Christmas

### **December 22 Reaching out at Christmas**

Luke 2:13-18: Pray that we are prepared to stop our own agenda for Christmas when we see the needs of others.

### **December 29 Getting ready for 2018**

Matthew 9:37-38: We pray for a growing church in 2018

**CHURCHES TOGETHER IN MOTTINGHAM DECEMBER BIBLE  
STUDY AND PRAYER MEETING CANCELLED**

## PRAYER REQUESTS

There is a note book at the rear of the Church for your use if you or someone you know would like to be remembered in prayer by the Church whether anonymously or by name. If it's easier to leave a note please do leave it in an envelope in the Church or in the Hall.

## WE PRAY FOR

Revd Alex Terrett

Jackie

James

Janet

Maureen's Daughter, Tina, and partner, Roy

The Community Lunch

The Children's Clubs

**Venue:** Burnt Ash Methodist Hall  
Burnt Ash Hill  
Lee  
London SE12 0QD

**Thursday 7 December** at 7.45pm

**Friday 8 December** at 7.45

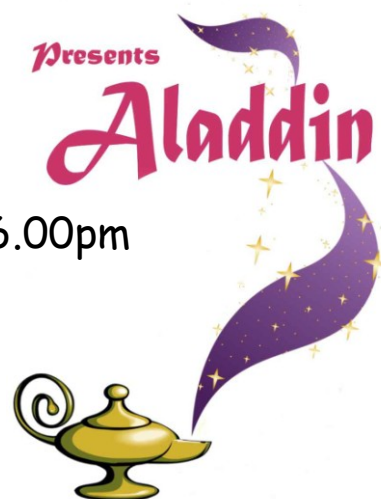
**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December** at 1.00pm and 6.00pm

Box office [rynind@aol.com](mailto:rynind@aol.com)

Tickets £7 Concessions £6

Loop system in operation

College  
Park Players  
Amateur  
Founded 1924



## MONTHLY ACTIVITIES IN THE CHURCH

- **1ST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 10.30am:**  
Messy Church - *This is preceded by breakfast*
- **1ST WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT 7.30pm**  
Prayer Meeting at Eddie and Dallas's home
- **2ND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 10.30am**  
Good Companions
- **LAST TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT 10.30 - 11.30am**  
All sorts craft group
- **EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 12.30pm**  
Community Lunch
- **EVERY SATURDAY FROM 7 - 10pm**  
Saturday Youth Club - for 9 - 14 year olds

### **MOTTINGHAM METHODIST CHURCH NOTICE BOARD**

#### ● **ADDRESS:**

62 Mottingham Road, Mottingham, SE9 4QR

#### ● **CONTACT:**

The Minister: Revd. Alexandra Terrett

Telephone: 020 3237 1084

Please Note: The minister's normal day off is a Friday

#### ● **THE CHURCH WEB SITE:**

Church information is available on the WEB site

Log in to: <http://www.mottinghammethodistchurch.org.uk>.

#### ● **THE CHURCH AND CHURCH HALL FOR HIRE**

Contact: Sharon Michaelides for further information

Mobile: 07757 717399



\* We are members of Parish Pump and The Association of Church Editors, two groups which provide material for Church Magazines.

\* Our Messy Church is registered with the official Messy Church Site.

\* We are members of Churches together in Mottingham.

