

MOTTINGHAM METHODIST CHURCH MESSENGER JANUARY 2018



And I said to the man who stood at the gate
of the year:

"Give me a light that I may tread safely into
the unknown."

And he replied:

"Go out into the darkness and put your hand
into the Hand of God.

That shall be to you better than light and
safer than a known way."

Minnie Louise Haskins.



Part 1 of a six-part series by Rev Paul Hardingham

PART1 'IMMEASURABLY MORE'

'Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus' (Ephesians 3:20,21).

January is traditionally the time when people join a gym to improve their fitness! Faith is also like a muscle, whose strength depends on how much we exercise it. As we start a new series entitled 'God is able', how can we experience God's power in our lives 'to do immeasurably more than all we can ask or imagine'?

Know God's power by praying: Prayer and power go together. Paul prays that we 'may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ' (verse 18). When we can grasp how much we are loved by God, this becomes the basis on which we are empowered to fulfill His will.

Know God's power by risking: God's ability to do 'immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine' enables us to be ready to take risks for Him. When we are prepared to step out in obedience to what God says, despite the cost involved, He promises His 'super-abundant' (ie immeasurable) power to flow into our lives.

Know God's power by trusting: Paul also prays that the Spirit would strengthen our trust in God, that 'He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.' (Verses 16&17). If our faith is to grow, it needs testing. God will enable us to keep following Him, despite the difficulties, delays, despair and discouragement.

'Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God' (William Carey)

DIARY OF CHURCH SERVICE PREACHERS JANUARY 2018

Sunday 7th at 10.30am – Messy Church: *Alex Terrett*
Messy Church is preceded by breakfast

Sunday 14th at 9.30am – Holy communion: *Alex Terrett*
Service of worship will follow: *Maggie Ayres*

Sunday 21st at 10.30am: *Sue Cope*

Sunday 28th at 10.30am – *John Sennett*

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN MOTTINGHAM BIBLE STUDY AND PRAYER MEETING

Date: Tuesday 16th January

Venue: St Andrew's Lady Chapel Court Road

Topic 'Walking in the Christ - light' to fit in with the Season of Epiphany

**PLEASE
NOTE:**

Additional dates for your diary

SUNDAY 7TH JANUARY

Joint Covenant Service at Bromley Common Methodist Church, Bloomfield Road, Bromley BR2 9RZ

Time: 4.00pm

WEDNESDAY 31ST JANUARY

Church Council Meeting

Venue: Church Building

Time: 7.30pm



Calendar of Events



Sunday 7th January at
10.30am:

Theme - Creation

This is preceded by breakfast

Prayer meeting

Wednesday 3rd January at 7.30pm: At the house of Eddie and Dallas Green

Good Companions

Tuesday 9th January at 10.30am: Members' morning, with a raffle & sales table.

All Sorts Craft Group

Tuesday 30th January at 10.30am for one hour

Community Lunch

Every Wednesday at 12.30am **RECOMMENCES JANUARY 10th**

Saturday Youth Club

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



EPIPHANY

In Christianity, the Epiphany refers to a realization that Christ is the Son of God. It is the final day of the Christmas celebrations and is celebrated on the 6th of January

also called the 12th Night.

These days, the British tend to associate Twelfth Night with removing Christmas decorations because according to tradition, anyone who forgets to take them down by the night before Epiphany

must leave them in place all year to avoid misfortune. However, up until the 19th century, the Epiphany was more important than Christmas Day, and it was used to celebrate both the three kings' (or three wise men's) visit to Jesus shortly after his birth and also Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist.

In the West, Christians began celebrating the Epiphany in the 4th century, associating it with the visit of the Magi (the three kings) to Bethlehem. According to the Gospel of Matthew, the three wise men - named Melchior, Caspar and Balthazar - followed the star of Bethlehem across the desert to meet the baby Jesus, offering gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. The gifts were symbolic of the importance of Jesus' birth, the gold representing his royal standing; frankincense his divine birth; and myrrh his mortality.

Western churches generally celebrate the Visit of the Magi as the revelation of the Incarnation of the infant Christ, and commemorate the Feast of the Epiphany on January 6.

Traditionally, Eastern churches, have celebrated Epiphany in conjunction with Christ's baptism by John the Baptist and celebrated it on January 19; however, other Eastern churches have adopted the Western Calendar and celebrate it on January 6.

At the end of a month of anticipating and then celebrating the birth of Jesus, Epiphany gives us the opportunity to reflect on the significance of the events we have celebrated:

Arise, shine, for the Light of the World has come!

Darkness covers the earth and its people,

but the radiance of God's Light burns away its shadows, illuminates
the smallest corner, and heralds in the start of a new dawn.

Where hearts no longer fear, souls might be set free.

Sister shall follow brother, and brother, sister.

Nation shall follow nation, and kings and princes shall bow down in awe
before the one who comes to reign.

Arise, shine, for the Light of the World has come!

Alleluia!

IN AND AROUND MOTTINGHAM

MOTTINGHAM LIBRARY IN JANUARY

BROMLEY AND GREENWICH COUNCILLORS' SURGERIES

Friday 5th January from 6.45-8.00pm.

COFFEE MORNING

Topic: "Trading Standards Scams and Doorstep Crime"

Speaker: Beverley Nicklin

Date and Time: Wednesday 10th January from 10.30am to 12noon

MYSTERIOUS MARYLEBONE 3 - POVERTY AND PLEASURE GARDENS -

another virtual illustrated walk with Chris

Date and Time: Friday 19th January from 6.15 to 7.30pm

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 Saturday Club

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

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



We subscribe to **Parish Pump** and the **Association for Church Editors**, two sites which provide material for church magazines.

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

We are part of Churches Together in Mottingham