

**MOTTINGHAM METHODIST CHURCH  
MESSENGER  
FEBRUARY 2018**

**LENT 2018  
JESUS' ROAD TO CALVARY**



*Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And he fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was hungry.*

Matthew 4 Verses 1&2



## WHAT IS LENT? - OUR ROAD TO CALVARY

*Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And he fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was hungry. Matthew 4:1-2*

Just as we set aside time to spiritually prepare for Christmas Day, it makes sense to set aside time to prepare for the two most important days of the Christian year. Lent is a time that offers us an opportunity to come to terms with the human condition we may spend the rest of the year running from and it brings our need for a Saviour to the forefront. Like Advent, Lent is a time to open the doors of our hearts a little wider and understand our Lord a little deeper, so that when Good Friday and eventually Easter comes, it is not just another day at church but an opportunity to receive the overflowing of graces God has to offer.

But unlike the childlike joy associated with the season of Advent, with its eager anticipation of the precious baby Jesus, Lent is an intensely penitential time as we examine our sinful natures and return to the God we have, through our own rebelliousness, hurt time and again. Lent is also an opportunity to contemplate what our Lord really did for us on the Cross - and it wasn't pretty. But ultimately, the purpose of Lent does not stop at sadness and despair - it points us to the hope of the Resurrection and the day when every tear will be dried.

*And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Matthew 27:33-49*

Although the nature of suffering is not one that offers itself to easy explanations or pat answers, the answers we seek seem to make the most sense in light of the Cross. There is nothing in the world - no religion, philosophy, or material comfort - that offers

such a powerful answer to life's toughest questions as the two slabs of wood on which our Saviour died. It is at this time of year, known as Lent, which we are reminded of what Jesus did for us.

Sarah Phillips

## PREPARING FOR EASTER IN MOTTINGHAM

### Ash Wednesday 14th February:

We will meet as our group of Methodist Churches at 7.30pm, at Petts Wood Methodist Church for an Ash Wednesday service.

### Lent Series 2018:

We will meet together with our group of Mottingham Churches at 8.00pm each Tuesday from the 20<sup>th</sup> February to the 27<sup>th</sup> March. The series will be based on Justin Welby's book 'Dethroning Mammon'. The course will take place at St Andrew's Church, Court Road. Everybody is very welcome.

## DIARY OF CHURCH SERVICE PREACHERS FEBRUARY 2018

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February 10.30am** – Messy Church: *Alex Terrett*  
Messy Church is preceded by breakfast

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> at 10.30am** – *David Ball*

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> at 10.30am:** 1<sup>st</sup> in Lent – *David Gloin*

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> at 10.30am:** 2<sup>nd</sup> in Lent – *Keith Miller*



The Circuit Invitation Committee has extended an invitation to Reverend Terry Wright MA to join our Circuit, which he has accepted. He will commence work here at the start of September and will be responsible for Mottingham, Bromley Common, Chelsfield and Orpington churches.

† On Thursday 11th January, after many years of increasing frailty, **Jackie Forrester** passed away. Jackie was a very long standing member of our Church. We extend our sympathy to Jackie's two daughters, Lynne and Marion, and their families.

Jackie's funeral will be on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February at 10.45am at Eltham Crematorium, Crown Woods Way, London.



† **Tina**, Maureen's daughter, died on the 5<sup>th</sup> January after a brave struggle with cancer. Tina leaves a family, husband, children and grandchildren. Our sympathy goes to Maureen and all the family.



## FEBRUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### **Messy Church**

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February at 10.30am:  
Theme - Our Pets

This is preceded by breakfast

### **Prayer meeting**

Wednesday 7th February at 7.30pm: At the house of Eddie and Dallas Green

### **Good Companions**

Tuesday 13th February at 10.30am will be a quiz morning

### **All Sorts Craft Group**

Tuesday 27th February at 10.30am for one hour

### **Community Lunch**

Wednesdays 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th at 12.30am

### **Saturday Youth Club**

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





Part 2 of a six-part series by Rev Paul  
Hardingham

## .... TO KEEP HIS PROMISES

'Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.' (Romans 4:20,21).

How good are we at keeping our promises? Paul speaks of a God who is able to keep His promises, not only to Abraham but also to ourselves.

God promised a son to Abraham, who was 75-years-old, and his wife Sarah, who was barren. Faith faces the problem, but focuses on the promise. They trusted God's word, despite their age and bodies. Abraham was prepared to face the facts, as well as focusing on the promise. In an impossible situation, are we doing the same? What stands in the way of God's promises in our life?

Abraham was fully persuaded that God would keep His promise. Faith believes that God is able to fulfil His promises. Are we fully, or only partially, convinced of this truth? Abraham and Sarah had their own method (Hagar) to hasten God's promise. To what extent do we do the same? Is our faith growing weaker or stronger as a result?

Abraham and Sarah waited 25 years for the arrival of Isaac. Faith believes that God is willing to fulfil His promise. Abraham was not just convinced that God is able to fulfil His promise; he believed that God is willing! What promises are we claiming from God's Word that have not yet been answered? God has a different timetable from us and delights in surprising us with how He answers!

'God is looking for people through whom He can do the impossible. What a pity that we plan only the things we can do by ourselves.' (AW Tozer).

## CHURCHES TOGETHER IN MOTTINGHAM BIBLE STUDY AND PRAYER MEETING

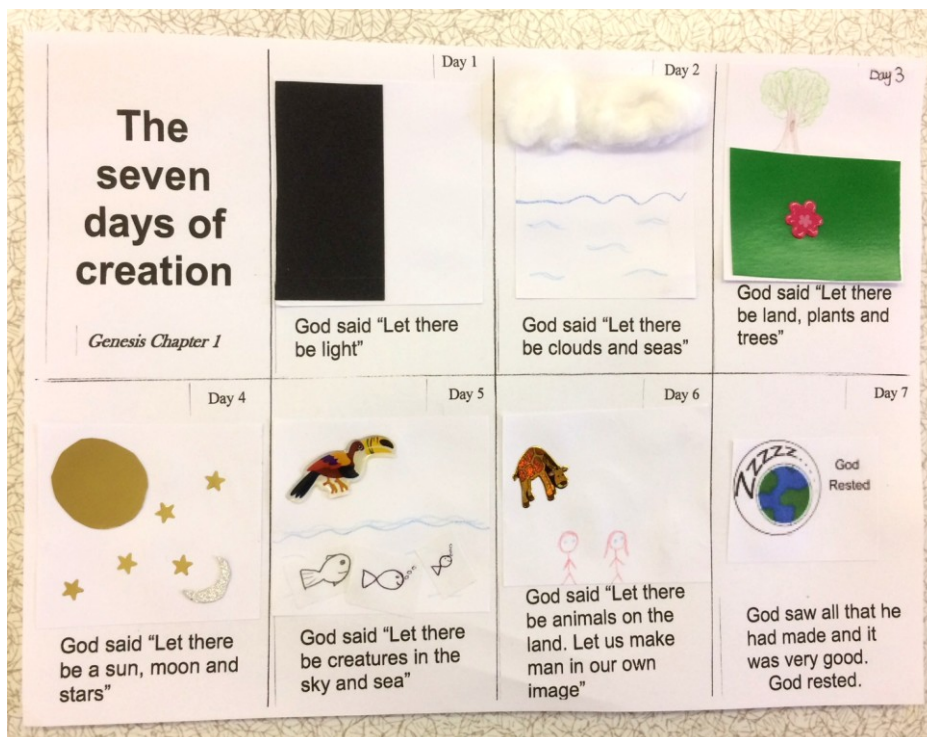
**Date:** Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February at 8.00pm

**Venue:** St Andrew's Lady Chapel Court Road

Bishop Karowei will join the group as part of his Deanery visit to the Mottingham Anglican churches



## ONCE A MONTH CONGREGATION CALLED MESSY CHURCH



Without knowing it the Messy Church Members in January anticipated the women's World Day of Prayer theme when they started the year looking at the seven days of creation which ended with **'God saw that it was very good!'**



## FOR YOUR MARCH DIARY .....

The Women's world day of prayer prepared by the women of Suriname - will be celebrated on the 2nd of March 2018.



## IN AND AROUND MOTTINGHAM

### MOTTINGHAM LIBRARY IN FEBRUARY

#### **BROMLEY AND GREENWICH COUNCILLORS' SURGERIES**

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February from 6.45-8.00pm.

#### **COFFEE MORNING**

On Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February from 10.30am to 12noon David Roberts will be talking about 'Men In Sheds' a movement designed for older men who would like to mke friends and get out.

#### **CHRIS'S FEBRUARY VIRTUAL ILLUSTRATED WALK- Mysterious Marylebone 4**

Join Chris on Friday 16th February from 6.15 to 7.30pm when her subject is 'Conran, a Crocodile & a Cavalier'.

## 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

## 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

James

Jackie's family following her death

Janet

Maureen and her family on the loss of Tina

The Community Lunch

The Children's Clubs

## 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
-  **4TH 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.