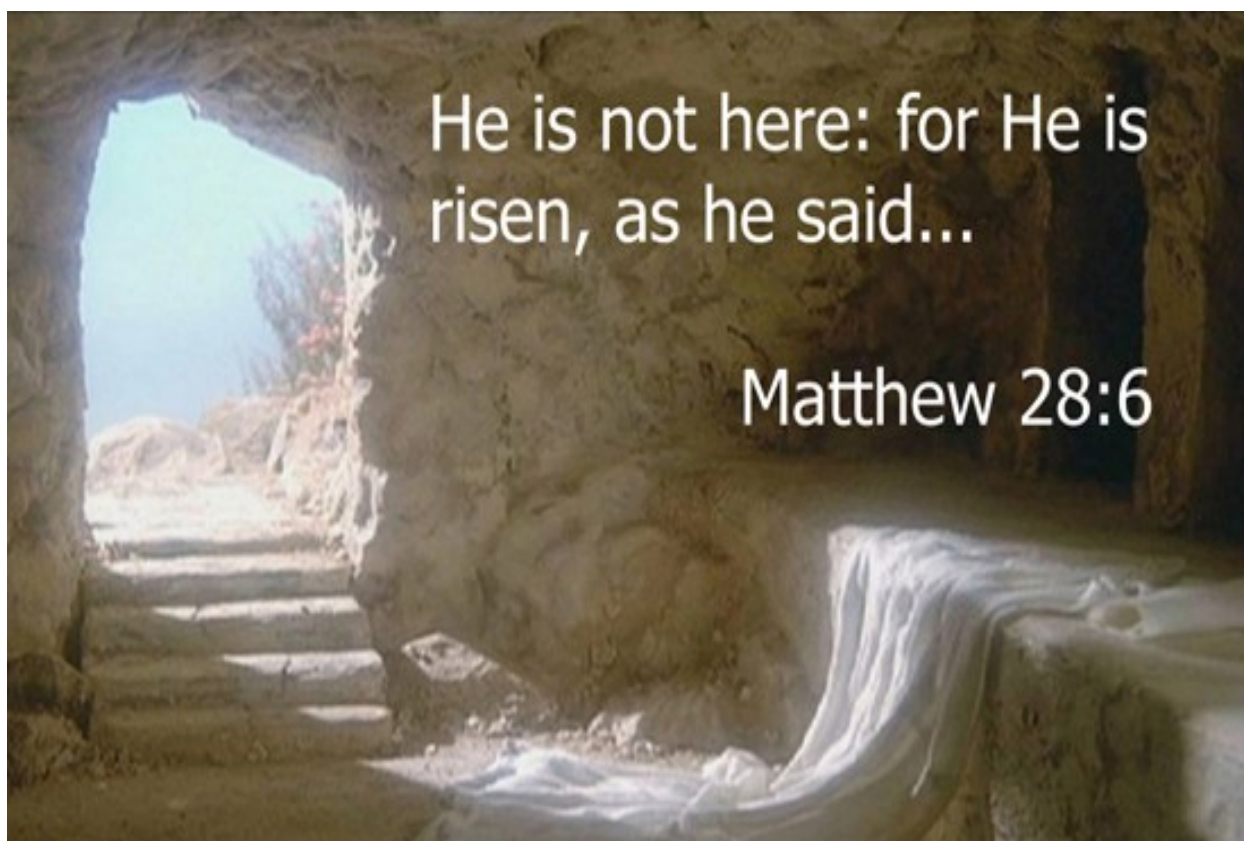


**MOTTINGHAM METHODIST CHURCH  
MESSENGER  
APRIL 2018**



**HALLELUJAH!**  
**CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED!**



## WHY EASTER WILL NEVER GO AWAY

How do you make sense of the Resurrection? Dead men don't rise, so why believe that this particular dead man did rise?

At the end of St Luke's Gospel we read that: "they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement" (Luke 24.4). This is highly significant. The Gospels do not show us a group of disciples who were in a receptive frame of mind. After the crucifixion, they were in hiding, frightened and scattered. Then suddenly, they came out of hiding and were totally different; excited, joyful. By Pentecost they were confident, with one firm message: "You crucified Jesus, but God raised him up!"

**How did they know this?** Because of direct personal experience. Some of them had visited the tomb of Jesus: it was empty. Others claimed to have seen and touched the risen Lord. Were they hallucinating? People can hallucinate in groups - when taking drugs, for example. But, of course each one will see a different hallucination. But the disciples all saw the same thing. Or rather, the same person. Jesus.

**Were they lying?** Jesus had died a humiliating death as a criminal. Perhaps they wanted to rescue His good name. So did they pretend they had seen Him?

This theory has a big problem. Their preaching led them into trouble with the authorities. They were beaten and imprisoned and some of them killed. People will die for ideas and causes which they believe in passionately. But not for things they have made up. We might suffer for our convictions, we will not suffer for our inventions.

**What about the 'swoon' theory?** That Jesus didn't die on the cross, despite terrible wounds. He recovered in the tomb, and then escaped. The disciples nursed Him back to health. But Roman soldiers knew when a man was **dead**; and there was the guard on the tomb. Also, the events which followed simply don't fit. If the disciples had been hiding Jesus, they would have kept very low-key, and out of the way, so that the authorities did not come after Him again.

Besides, to preach that God had raised Jesus from the dead - which is exactly what they did preach - would have been a lie. Beatings and threat of death would soon have loosened their tongues. Inventions crumble under pressure; convictions hold fast. Another reason for believing in the Resurrection is this: Jesus' continuing impact. Thousands and soon millions of people in every generation since have shared an inescapable sense of being 'accompanied' through life. Though unseen, they identify this presence as the Risen Lord.

Sometimes this experience of meeting Jesus is gentle and fitful. Sometimes it is dramatic and life-changing. This reminds us that the resurrection of Jesus is not just an interesting historical puzzle. It is a vital, present day reality. It brings wonderful comfort, assuring us of the central Christian truths: death is dead; Jesus is alive; God is love.

This central notion was captured, most movingly, by the great Albert Schweitzer: 'He came to those men who knew Him not. He speaks to us the same word: "Follow thou me", and sets us to the tasks which He has to fulfil for our time. He commands. And to those who obey Him, whether they be wise or simple, He will reveal Himself in the toils, the conflicts, the suffering which they shall pass through in His fellowship, and, as ineffable mystery, they shall learn in their own experience who He is.' Have a joyful - and a challenging - Easter.

# DIARY OF CHURCH SERVICE PREACHERS

## APRIL 2018

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> April 10.30am** – Messy Church: *Worship leaders* –  
*Theme: Easter*

Messy Church is preceded by breakfast

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> April 10.30am** – *Julie Gardner*

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> April 10.30am** – *Joan Mayes*

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 9.30am** – Holy Communion: *David Gillman*

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April 10.30am** – *David Gloin*



## Calendar of Events

### Messy Church

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> April at 10.30am: Theme - Easter  
This is preceded by breakfast

**Prayer meeting:** Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm: At the house of Eddie and Dallas Green

**Good Companions on** Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> April at 10.30am:  
Nicola Fishman- Community development worker  
Theme: Bromley Dementia Hub

**All Sorts Craft Group:** Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> April at 10.30am  
for one hour

**Community Lunch:** Every Wednesday at 12.30am







### Saturday Youth Club

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



Postponed final session of **Lent Series 2018** based on Justin Welby's 'Dethroning Mammon' on Tuesday 24th April at St Andrews Church, Court Road.

## MONTHLY ACTIVITIES IN THE CHURCH

-  **1ST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH AT 10.30am:** Messy Church - *This is preceded by breakfast*
-  **1ST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 7.30pm:** Prayer Meeting at Eddie and Dallas's home
-  **2ND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 10.30am:** Good Companions
-  **FORTH TUESDAY OF THE 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



**Sunday 15 July:**

**Farewell**

to David Gillman and Alex Terrett

Details to be arranged - EVERYONE WELCOME.

**Wednesday 5th of September**

Welcome to Rev. Terry Wright.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Venue: Bromley Common Methodist Church. EVERYONE WELCOME.



New Eltham Community Productions proudly presents **PATIENCE**

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## THE ROAD TO EMMAUS - one of the best short stories in the world

The story of the two disciples walking the road between Jerusalem and Emmaus on the first Easter day is 'one of the immortal short stories of the world' (W. Barclay). Their encounter with the risen Christ is also a model for how we can meet him in our lives. (You can find the story in Luke 24: 13 -35)

**HEARTS OPENED.** The disciples displayed 'downcast' faces (verse 17), as their hearts were preoccupied with grief. They felt let down by God, as well as bewildered by all they had heard. No doubt their emotions prevented them from recognising Jesus walking with them, even though their hearts burned within them. Despite our feelings, Jesus is still with us in situations of loss or desolation, as well as when we feel let down by God or other people.

**MINDS OPENED.** Although this pair knew the Scriptures, they didn't understand what they said about the Christ. Therefore, Jesus opened their minds to make sense of the events they were experiencing. The Holy Spirit also brings God's word alive for us, as He challenges our preconceptions about Jesus.

**EYES OPENED.** The couple only recognised Jesus when He broke the bread as they ate together. The turning point came when they invited Jesus into their home, and allowed Him to take charge. If we are to recognise Jesus' presence with us, we need to open our lives to Him. What part does Holy Communion play in this?

Open eyes, minds and hearts will lead to open mouths. Having discovered Jesus, the disciples can't keep the news to themselves. The Christian message is never truly ours until we have opened our mouths and shared it with others!

*The Rev Paul Hardingham*



Part 4 of a six-part series by Rev Paul  
Hardingham

.....TO BLESS US  
ABUNDANTLY

***'And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.'*** (2 Corinthians 9:8).

How generous are we, on a scale between Scrooge and Bill Gates? Let's not forget that we have a God who is able to out-give us on all levels!

**A GOD WHO BLESSES:**

Paul reminds the Corinthians that we have a generous God, who meet our needs, even when we don't deserve it. This is demonstrated by the grace of God seen in the death and resurrection of his Son, ***'Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!'*** (2 Corinthians 9:15).

**A RESPONSE OF BLESSING:** Paul calls for generosity as a response to God's grace, as the Corinthians were reluctant to support the Christians experiencing famine in Jerusalem. He uses an agricultural picture to make the point: ***'Remember this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.'*** (2 Corinthians 9:6). We sow sparingly when we hold on to what we have and put our needs first. However, by sowing generously we share God's heart and bless others, by using our time, money and talents to serve them.

***'Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.'*** (2 Corinthians 9:7). We should consider carefully what to give, but to do it cheerfully (literally - hilariously!). With God, the more we give, the more we bless others and are blessed ourselves!

Has this been true in our own experience? A farmer was known for his generosity. When asked why this is what he replied, ***'I keep shovelling into God's bin and He keeps shovelling into mine, but God has the bigger shovel!'***



## THE STORY BEHIND THE HYMN: 'CHRIST AROSE!'

This Easter marks the 144<sup>th</sup> birthday of this much-loved hymn, sung each year by millions of Christians worldwide. It all began on a little pump organ in the living room of a college professor in Pennsylvania, back in 1874.

Robert Lowry was professor of literature at Bucknell University, and pastor of a nearby church. He had a passion for poetry and music, and explained his 'muse' this way: 'I watch my moods and when anything strikes me, whether words or music, no matter where I am, at home, on the street, I jot it down. My brain is a sort of spinning machine, for there is music running through it all the time. Sometimes the words come and the music follows.'

Easter 1874 was approaching, and on this particular day, Robert Lowry had been meditating on the gospel narratives of the Passion and Resurrection. The angel's words at the empty tomb, 'He is not here, but is risen' kept running through his mind. There was something there... Lowry moved to the little pump organ in his living room and gave himself up to the moment. Soon the words and the music for this joyous Easter hymn just fell into place.

### CHRIST AROSE

Low in the grave He lay  
Jesus my Saviour!  
Waiting the coming day,  
Jesus my Lord!  
Vainly they watch His Bed,  
Jesus my Saviour!  
Vainly they seal the dead,  
Jesus my Lord!  
Death cannot keep his prey,  
Jesus my Saviour!  
He tore the bars away,  
Jesus my Lord!

*Up from the grave He arose,  
With a mighty triumph o'er His  
foes;  
He arose a Victor from the  
dark domain,  
And lives forever with His  
saints to reign,  
He arose! He arose!  
Hallelujah! Christ arose!*

By Robert Lowry (1826-1899)



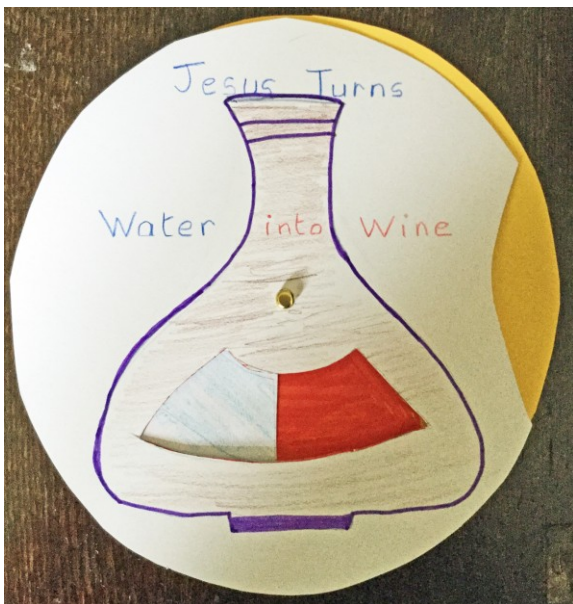
## GOOD LIKENESS

Some children were asked: 'What do you think of Jesus?' 'Jesus,' said one little boy, 'is the best photograph God ever had taken.'

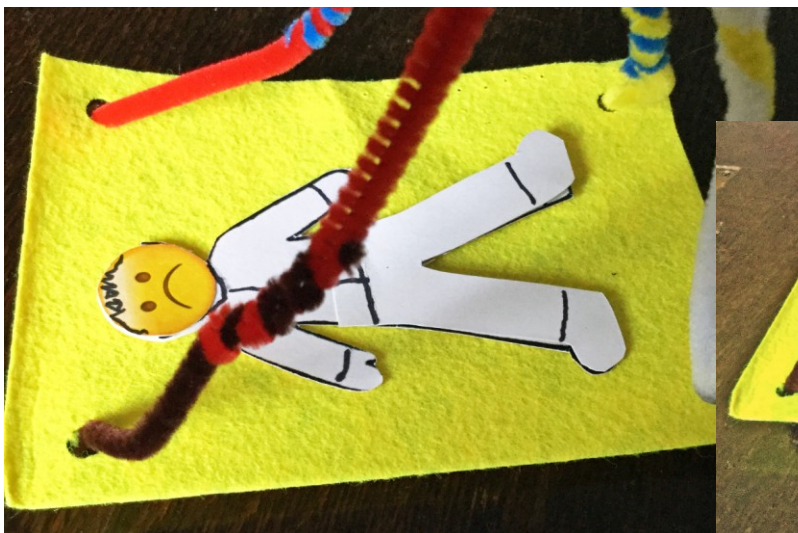


## ONCE A MONTH CONGREGATION CALLED MESSY CHURCH

The topic on the 6<sup>th</sup> of March was **MIRACLES OF JESUS.**



- ♦ Jesus turned water into wine.
- ♦ Jesus fed 5000.
- ♦ Jesus healed the paralysed man let down through the roof at His feet by his friends.



**PAUL**  
**APOSTLE OF CHRIST**  
WHERE SIN ABOUNDS... GRACE ABOUNDS MORE.

**A NEW FILM!**

"Paul, Apostle of Christ" is released in cinemas co-inciding with Easter. It follows the last few months of Paul's time in a Roman

prison, awaiting execution by Emperor Nero. He has gone from being Saul of Tarsus, a high ranking and infamous persecutor of Christians to one of Christ's most influential apostles. From prison he continues to work tirelessly to further the Gospel of Jesus Christ and is helped in this task by Luke, the physician, who bravely visits and smuggles out his letters to the growing community of believers who will spread the Gospel and change the world. This gripping film stars Jim Caviezel and James Faulkner ("Game of Thrones").

**Sequel to "The Passion of Christ:** Jim Caviezel played Jesus in Mel Gibson's 2004 blockbuster "Passion of Christ" which covered the Easter story from the agony in the garden of Gethsemane to Jesus' burial in the tomb. He is going to reprise the role of Jesus in the sequel "The Passion of Christ: Resurrection", and said, "This is going to be the biggest film in history; it's that good". However, the film will not be released until either late 2019 or early 2020.

**20  
APR**

**Remembering Mark - disciple, apostle,  
writer of the second gospel**

Mark, whose home in Jerusalem became a place of rest for Jesus and His 12 apostles, is considered the traditional author of the second gospel. He is also usually identified as the young man, described in Mark 14:51, who followed Christ after his arrest and then escaped capture by leaving his clothes behind.

Papias, in 130, said that in later years Mark became Peter's interpreter. If so, then this close friendship would have been how

Mark gathered so much information about Jesus' life. Peter referred to him affectionately as his 'son'.

Mark was also a companion to Paul on his journeys. When Paul was held captive at Rome, Mark was with him, helping him. Mark's Gospel, most likely written in Italy, perhaps in Rome, is the earliest account we have of the life of Jesus. Mark died about 74 AD.

Early in the 9th century Mark's body was brought to Venice, whose patron he became, and there it has remained to this day. The symbol of Mark as an evangelist, the lion, is much in evidence at Venice.



## IN AND AROUND MOTTINGHAM

MOTTINGHAM LIBRARY IN APRIL 2018

BROMLEY AND GREENWICH COUNCILLORS' SURGERIES

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> April from 6.45-8.00pm.

COFFEE MORNING: on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> April from 10.30am - Join Brian Bilson talking about his life on boats.

ANOTHER ARMCHAIR WALK WITH CHRIS: on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> April from 6.15pm. Discover the area from Lambeth Bridge to Waterloo Bridge on 'Horses, Hospitals & Heroines

## 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.

## WE PRAY FOR

Revd Alex Terrett

James

Janet

Maureen, Roy and their family on the loss of their daughter

The Community Lunch - The Children's Clubs



## **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: [mottinghammethodist@outlook.com](mailto:mottinghammethodist@outlook.com)

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.