

**MOTTINGHAM METHODIST CHURCH
MESSENGER
JUNE 2018**

JUNE

**'YOURS IS THE DAY, YOURS ALSO IS THE
NIGHT; YOU HAVE PREPARED THE LIGHT
AND THE SUN. YOU HAVE ESTABLISHED ALL
THE BOUNDARIES OF THE EARTH; YOU HAVE
MADE SUMMER AND WINTER.'**

Psalm 74 verses 16 & 17



Part 6 of a six-part series by Rev Paul Hardingham.

.....TO DELIVER

'If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and He will deliver us from your majesty's hand. But even if He does not, we want you to know, your majesty that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.' (Daniel 3 verses 17&18)

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were Jewish exiles in Babylon who lived godly lives, but things didn't go well for them. When Nebuchadnezzar set up a golden statue of himself, the trio refused to bow down to it and they were thrown into the fiery furnace. However, they trusted in God alone and were fully persuaded that He was able to deliver them, while knowing that He always does it in his way!

Why do bad things happen to good people? In our own lives, we can suffer a heart attack, our marriage falls apart, our children get into trouble or we lose our job. Yet God is able to deliver us in these circumstances, but on His terms!!

We may be facing fire in our own lives: divorce, sickness and financial issues. We may have taken a stand for God, but things have got worse. We may have prayed that God would save you from the fire, but it remains. God doesn't necessarily save us from the fire, but He *will* bring us through it.

As for Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, the miracle is not outside the fire but inside it. When Nebuchadnezzar looked to the fire, he saw four figures. Jesus was present in the flames, as He is with us too.

'When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.' (Isaiah 43 verse 2).



FIFA WORLD CUP
RUSSIA 2018

WORLD CUP FEVER

The former Liverpool Manager Bill Shankly famously said, *'Some people believe football is a matter of life and death, I am very disappointed with that attitude. I can assure you it is much, much more important than that!'*

This month sees the start of the World Cup in Russia; a truly global event watched by billions on television. Yet this competition illustrates some key points about the Christian life. As Paul writes: *'But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus.'* (Philippians 3:13b,14).

A PRIZE TO BE WON: The dream of every player in the competition is to be able to hold up the World Cup themselves. For us the prize is the eternal life, God's gift of relationship with him for now and eternity through Jesus. But there's an important difference between football and the Christian faith. To win the World Cup you have to be good enough, while Christ's love for us is underserved and is not dependent on how well we've done.

TRAINING TO BE UNDERTAKEN: If a team is going to win the World Cup, they have to train hard beforehand. Our training, as Christians, starts the moment we accept the gift of God's life. On a daily basis, we train ourselves to say no to the wrong things in our lives. As we build up our godly muscles we are better able to choose to do what is right in God's eyes. To enable us to do all this we need to engage in the spiritual disciplines of prayer, studying the Bible and being part of a church and small group. How is your training going?

Paul Hardingham



JUNE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Messy Church

Sunday 3rd June at 10.30am:

Theme - Weddings

This is preceded by breakfast

Prayer meeting

Wednesday 6th June at 7.30pm

At the house of Eddie and Dallas Green

Service of Worship

Sunday 10th June at 10.30am

Preacher: *Maureen Spinks*

Good Companions

Tuesday 12th June at 10.30am: Topic to be informed

Service of Worship

Sunday 17th June 10.30am

Preacher: *David Ball*

Holy Communion Service

Sunday 24th June 10.30am

Preacher: *Alex Terrett*

All Sorts Craft Group

Tuesday 19th June 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

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
- **THIRD TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT 10.30**
All sorts craft group
- **EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 12.30pm**
Community Lunch
- **EVERY SATURDAY FROM 7 - 10pm**
Saturday Youth Club - for 9 - 14 year olds

Please note the following:

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN MOTTINGHAM BIBLE STUDY AND PRAYER MEETING

The date has been changed to Wednesday 20th June

Venue: St Andrew's - Court Road

POSTPONED CHURCH AGM AND COUNCIL

No date has yet been fixed. Information will be circulated as soon as possible.



THE PERSECUTED CHURCH COMING STORM FOR CHINESE CHRISTIANS UNDER 'EMPEROR' XI

A leading campaigner has warned of a gathering storm for persecuted Christians in China. Release International partner, Bob Fu, says the persecution of Christians has worsened dramatically under President Xi Jinping, and is set to get worse now Xi has been declared president for life.

Bob Fu said: 'Churches have been totally destroyed under President Xi's rule. This may even be worse than during the Cultural Revolution.'

President Xi has imposed tough new restrictions on religious freedom, which came into force on 1st February. The latest crackdown has been in Luoning County, where the authorities have banned preaching and gathering for worship and have been arresting Christians. Officials have smashed windows, torn religious murals from homes, removed crosses from churches, cut off electricity and confiscated property. They have stationed guards in private homes to prevent family prayers. 'It feels like another Cultural Revolution,' one Chinese Christian remarked.

'Since February, even organising a prayer meeting in your home is totally forbidden,' said Bob Fu. 'If you disobey, your home will be subject to destruction. According to the new regulations you cannot share religious messages with anyone under 18. And students, young people and Communist party members have been forbidden from entering churches.'

Persecution is likely to increase in the coming months and years, believes Fu. The signs are that the Communist party is tightening its grip on the nation under President Xi Jinping who is now president for life.

The aim is to make everything more Chinese in character or form and so to bring the churches under the absolute control of the Communist party. Even registered churches are being forced to install face-recognition cameras and provide office space for Communist party members to monitor the church.'

'We are seeing Christians labelled as belonging to 'evil cults', simply because they have been reading books like Pilgrim's Progress and Streams in the Desert.

One target of the Communist party is to curb the rapid growth of the Church. When the party took power in 1949 there were around a million Christians in China. By the 1980s, the Church had grown ten-fold, despite attempts to eradicate the faith during the Cultural Revolution. Today, the number of Chinese Christians is estimated at more than 100m. There are now more Christians than members of the Communist party in China, and that

figure is set to more than double. This is the real reason for the clampdown, Bob Fu believes.

Release International is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. Through its international network of missions, UK-based Release serves persecuted Christians, including in China, by supporting pastors and Christian prisoners and their families, supplying Christian literature and Bibles, and working for justice.



THE WINDRUSH EXHIBITION

A TRIBUTE TO THE MIGRANTS AT THE BRITISH LIBRARY

This month marks 70 years since the Empire Windrush arrived at Tilbury Docks carrying hundreds of migrants from the Caribbean. The British Library opens its special Windrush Exhibition this month (1st June to 21st October).

Key exhibits in the Windrush Exhibition include ER Braithwaite's original typescript of *To Sir, With Love*, the autobiographical novel that became a film starring Sidney Poitier.

As we remember those who came on the Empire windrush we thank god for their contribution to all parts of society including churches.



ONCE A MONTH CONGREGATION CALLED MESSY CHURCH

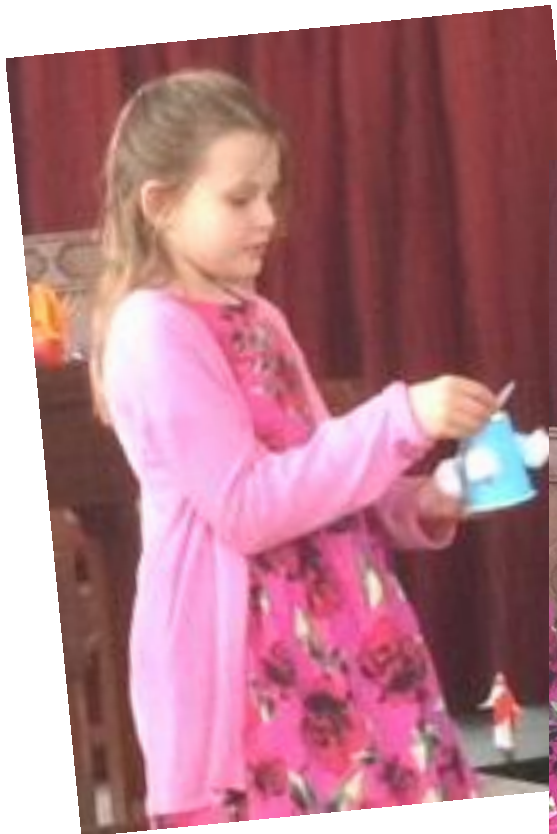
The bible says a lot about the life of Jesus but there are 5 parts of the Jesus story which are celebrated in particular; First, His birth at Christmas. then His death on the cross and His resurrection at Easter, and, finally, when he was taken up into heaven, His Ascension, and when He sent the Holy Spirit at Pentecost to give us the ability to live like Him, and help people understand all that God and Jesus have done for us.

On Sunday May 5th the Messy Church congregation thought about what the bible has to say:

The Bible says:
'Jesus was taken up before their very eyes and a cloud hid him from their sight'

The Bible says:

Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit.





CHRISTIAN AID BIG BREKKIE SUCCESS

12th May 9-11am

The Big Brekkie, organised under the auspices of Churches Together in Mottingham raised £441 for the work of Christian Aid. Between 50 and 60 people enjoyed different options of a full English breakfast made to

order.

Thank you to Dianne for all she did to arrange for the Brekkie to take place, to Eddie for organising the breakfast provisions and to those who cooked, and served and washed and cleared up, and, of course, to the Mottingham community for the generous donations.



IN AND AROUND MOTTINGHAM

MOTTINGHAM LIBRARY IN JUNE

BROMLEY AND GREENWICH COUNCILLORS' SURGERIES

Date: Friday 29 June from 6.45-8.00pm.

COFFEE MORNING TALK

Topic: The History of Eltham's Progress Estate

Speaker: Keith Billingham

Date: Wednesday 13th June from 10.30am to 12noon

AROUND THE ROYAL EXCHANGE

An illustrated talk with Chris on the building and the stories behind the statues and streets around the Exchange.

Date: Friday 8th June from 6.15 to 7.30pm

2018 LOCAL ELECTION RESULTS

MOTTINGHAM AND CHISLEHURST WARD

David Cartwright is a retired Fire Officer who now runs a small family wine business with his brother. He was first elected as a Councilor in 2014

Will Rowlands is a self-employed gardener. He is newly elected.

COLDHARBOUR AND NEW ELTHAM WARD

John Hills has a background in the building industry. He was first elected as a councilor in 2000

Matt Hartley works for a national advice charity. He was first elected as a councilor in 2014.

Roger Tester runs his own electrical business. He is newly elected



OPEN GARDEN

15 & 16 June 2018

10:00-13:00

63 Crossmead

Mottingham SE9 3AA

MOTTINGHAM VILLAGE BAND

Will be playing at the Tudor Barn, Eltham Family fun day:

Sunday 3rd June from 11.30am to 12.30 pm

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
Janet
Maureen's , Roy and the family
The Community Lunch
The 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: Mobile: 07588633871



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.