

**MOTTINGHAM METHODIST CHURCH
MESSENGER
JULY 2018**

JULY

**"AS LONG AS THE EARTH ENDURES,
SEEDTIME AND HARVEST, COLD AND HEAT,
SUMMER AND WINTER, DAY AND NIGHT
WILL NEVER CEASE."**

Genesis 8 verse 22

LETTER FROM ALEX



'How lovely on the mountains are the feet of the herald who proclaims peace, who brings good news, who announces deliverance and who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns!' Listen! Your watchers lift up their voices and together they sing for joy.'
Isaiah 52:7-8a

As you can imagine my television consumption has increased in vast amounts over the past few month as I've recovered from recent surgery and as I've watched some questions have come to mind - 'why do people buy antiques? Why do people of a certain age even think about buying a house without a down stairs bathroom and why is the news that makes the headlines always bad news?'

Many of us will have been extremely sadden by the news coming from the Grenfell Tower enquiry, by the stories of robbers on mopeds and by concerns about the NHS as it reaches its 70th birthday.

As I approach the end of my term of ministry here at Mottingham I have reflected much on how things have gone, what's changed for the better and perhaps what needed more work, or could have been approached in a different manner. One thing is for sure we are a different group of people now worshipping in this place, some have died , we think particularly of Doreen and Jackie, some have moved on to pastures new, but many are new who have come to join us.

For me, some of the best times have been, when we've worked together as a team, working parties clearing that alley way, decorating the back room and hosting the Christian Aid Big Breakfast. As a group of people you're wonderful at joining in, supporting each other and those in the churches around you, we've had some wonderful Lent courses, the first session often spent looking for the remote control for Doreen's DVD player. Our Messy

Church although not always packed out to the doors, has been a real time of coming together for us all - crafts that haven't worked and the spiders on elastic that made us all laugh, times when we can share and learn from each other. We have a great group of ladies who meet once a month, the spread of food they produce between them for a yearly celebration is truly amazing, and the lunch club is full of characters that all have a story to share, and on the whole all look out and care for each other. Wow what a long way we've come! There will always be concerns regarding the property, but on the whole the achievements of such a small group of dedicated people are huge, I'm so proud of you all.

Some of what keeps me going as a minister is the huge need for people outside the church to know what great time they are missing! That's the good news we need to share, Christ's love needs to be made know within the community surrounding us, and you are the best advert the church has got!

'Living God, you have given us news of great joy-teach us to celebrate that truth each day. Amen'

Time
TO
say
GOODBYE

..... TO **ALEX** who came as a probationer minister in 2011 and was ordained in 2013. We are thankful for the spiritual, pastoral and practical contribution you have made to us as individuals and to the church and community. We will miss you and wish you every blessing as you take up your new role as

Superintendent of Bromley Methodist Circuit.

..... TO **ALEX AND DAVID**

a service of farewell is being held on Sunday 15th July at 6.30pm at Petts Wood Methodist Church, Queensway, Petts Wood, Orpington BR5 1EB

There will be time to gather round tea and coffee to say our farewells following the service.



JULY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Messy Church

Sunday 1st July at 10.30am:

Preacher: *Alex Terrett*

This is preceded by breakfast

Prayer meeting

Wednesday 4th July at 7.30pm

At the house of Eddie and Dallas Green

Service of Worship

Sunday 8th July at 10.30am

Preacher: *Ralph Brandhorst*

Good Companions

Tuesday 10th July at 10.30am: Topic to be informed

Service of Worship

Sunday 15th July at 10.30am

Preacher: *Joan Mayes*

All Sorts Craft Group

Tuesday 24th July at 10.30am for one hour

Holy Communion Service

Sunday 22nd July at 10.30am

Preacher: *Alex Terrett*

Service of Worship

Sunday 29th July at 10.30am

Preacher: *Deborah Spinks*

Community Lunch

Every Wednesday at 12.30am

Saturday Youth Club

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

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN MOTTINGHAM BIBLE STUDY AND PRAYER MEETING

Date: Tuesday 17th July

Venue: St Andrew's Lady Chapel Court Road

IMPORTANT NOTICES!

THE CHURCH AGM AND COUNCIL will take place on Thursday 5th July at 7.30pm in the Church building.

AUGUST ALERT!

The following activities will not take place in August:

Messy Church

The Community Lunch

Good Companions

All sorts Craft Group

Churches Together bible study

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



*Rev Paul Hardingham continues his series
on the ways in which 'God is able...'*

..... TO USE US TO MEET OTHERS' NEEDS

We are all familiar with the story of the Feeding of the 5000 (Matthew 14:13-21). It reminds us that God is able to use us in meeting the needs of others. As Jesus says to the disciples: 'you give them something to eat' (16).

We need to share God's compassion: Jesus responded to need, by showing 'compassion' (lit: gut reaction, v14) on the crowds. This isn't simply feeling sorry for others, but being ready to act on their behalf. It's being prepared to enter into their experience and see them as God sees them. You cannot demonstrate compassion at a distance!

We need to share God's heart: It is said that 'The buck stops here!' God wants us to take responsibility for those in need. The disciples tried to pass the buck, telling Jesus to 'send the crowds away' (15). Are we looking for God-given opportunities in church, work or our communities to demonstrate God's love to those who cross our path? It will be costly, involving our time, energy and money eg listening to a colleague, shopping for a neighbour or visiting a friend in hospital.

We need to share what we have: This story reminds us of the challenges of meeting peoples' needs! The disciples only had five loaves and two fish to feed 5000+ people! It is not simply a matter of what we have, but what God can do with it. They offered what they had to Jesus and He multiplied it to feed the people, leaving 12 basketfuls of leftovers. Are we prepared to let God use what we have: our words, prayer and acts of love?

'Helping one person might not change the world, but it could change the world for that one person.'

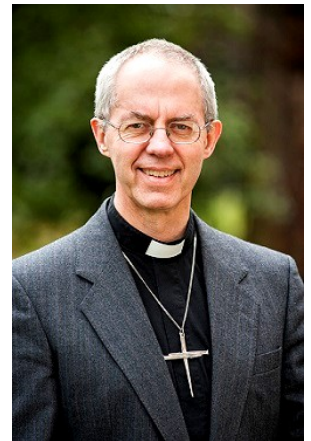


WHAT HAPPENED WHEN ONE PERSON PRAYED FOR A BABY...

When did you start praying for the children of your friends? Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury, thanks God that someone prayed for him before he was even born - in the hope that he would one day become a Christian.

The Archbishop told the story during a recent short film on the Thy Kingdom Come initiative. He said that after he had become a Christian, he had 'learned that there was a particular person who prayed for me every week - since I was conceived - that I might become a disciple of Christ.'

He concluded: 'I cannot tell you how grateful I am to them.'



The film can be seen at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=4_AMDXsDkAc

ST EDWARDS CHURCH IS CELEBRATING ITS 60TH BIRTHDAY WITH A COMMUNITY FESTIVAL:



On Saturday 14th July from 12-5pm there will be celebrations at Kimmeridge Cross with a children's fancy dress competition at 1pm

On Sunday 15th July at 6pm there will be a 'Come and sing' service of celebration.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

22 JULY REMEMBERING MARY MAGDALENE

Fake news is not new. Perhaps one old example is the assertion that Mary Magdalene was a prostitute. Back in the 6th Century, Pope Gregory is said to have confused her with two other women in the Bible. Medieval Bible scholars also attempted to name an unidentified sinful woman who had washed and anointed the feet of Jesus. As Mary Magdalene is mentioned in the next chapter they regarded her as the same person! After this, many classical artists painted Mary in various states of undress, perpetuating a falsehood.

So what do we really know about Mary? The Gospels tell us that she came from Magdala, a town in Galilee, and Jesus healed her by casting out seven evil spirits. After this she followed Jesus, with other women, on His ministry providing resources. Later, Mary watched Jesus die on the cross, and having cared for His needs while He was alive, wanted to care for Him after His death.

It was when Mary went to anoint the body of Jesus at the tomb that the risen Jesus appeared to her. He told Mary to go to His

disciples and tell them about His return to Heaven. She was obedient and became the first emissary of the resurrection. In those days, the witness of a woman was worthless. Despite ridicule, Mary had the courage to speak about Jesus in a place of great disbelief. We have to ask ourselves if we have the same courage as Mary. How prepared are we to stand our ground to share Jesus with others in the face of those who mock and scoff at us?

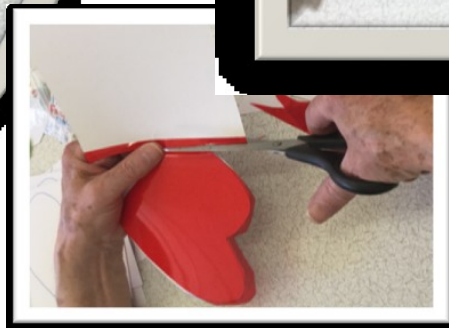
Although we usually associate Mary with the Easter story, this month on 22nd July, the Church celebrates her Feast Day. In this snapshot of Mary's life we know she had experienced great distress and suffering. After Jesus healed her, Mary expressed her gratitude by being utterly committed and devoted to Him.

Jesus can give everyone a new start; a new purpose and direction in life. Like Mary we can thank Him for blessing us, loving us and forgiving us and moving into practical forms of service. Only Jesus can transform our lives so that we can glorify God in all that we do.



ONCE A MONTH CONGREGATION CALLED MESSY CHURCH

June Messy Church in pictures:
WHAT WAS THE THEME?



IN AND AROUND MOTTINGHAM

MOTTINGHAM LIBRARY IN JULY

BROMLEY AND GREENWICH COUNCILLORS' SURGERIES

Friday 28th July from 6.45-8.00pm.

COFFEE MORNING:

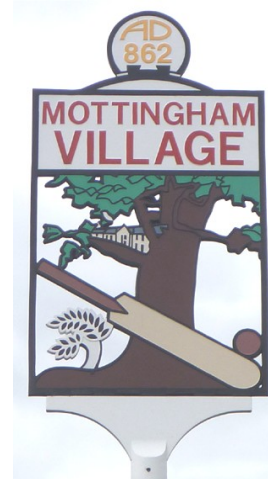
Wednesday 11th July from 10.30am to 12noon

Come and listen to Peter Braithwaite who will be talking about the work of the Brooke Equine Charity

AN ARMCHAIR WALK:

Friday 6th July from 6.15 to 7.30pm

Join Chris on a walk to the Bank of England and the alleys and streets around it



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 07588 633871 for further information

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



SHORT PRAYERS

Prayers don't need to be long to be acceptable to God. For instance, consider:

Peter (Matthew 14 verse 30): 'Lord, save me'.

A Canaanite woman (Matthew 15 verse 25): 'Lord, help me'.

Samuel (1 Samuel 3 verse 10): 'Speak, for your servant is listening'.

The Psalmist (Psalm 43 verse 3): 'O send out your light and your truth; let them lead me; let them bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling'.

Christians in later years have adopted the same form.

Michelangelo: 'Lord, make me see your glory in every place'.

Gladys Aylward: 'O God, give me strength'.

William Barclay: 'O God, keep me from being difficult to live with'.

Francois Fenelon: 'Teach me to pray. Pray yourself in me'.

John Wesley: 'O Lord, let us not live to be useless, for Christ's sake'.



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.