

**MOTTINGHAM METHODIST CHURCH
MESSENGER
OCTOBER 2018**

October

Exodus 23:16

'Celebrate the Festival of Harvest with the first fruits of the crops you sow in your field. "Celebrate the Festival of Ingathering at the end of the year, when you gather in your crops from the field.'



A LETTER FROM THE MANSE

Dear Friends,

I have been asked to just say a few words by means of introduction, not least for the avid readers who perhaps have not yet met Shirley and me. I'll be honest, my first thought was.....well I'm not special why on earth would anyone want to know about my background? But on reflection it is our human nature to want to get to know each other and in the weeks and months to come I hope to get to know many of you a little better! So here goes.....

Born in 1971 in East London, South Africa, my family left Africa due to not wanting to raise a family in the apartheid regime. The Wrights ended up living in Cornwall and there I grew up. For peace on a Sunday morning mum and dad sent me to Sunday School in the local Methodist Church where dear Mrs Bray, the long suffering Sunday School teacher, did her best to share the love of Jesus with a very mischievous young Cornish boy! I was educated at a CoE Primary before starting at Truro School for Boys Methodist School - It was a bit too posh for me so I opted after a while for the local Comprehensive where I was finally thrown out aged 16 for exhausting the patience of the teachers. 'You'll come to nothing young Wright' still rings in my ears!

I joined the army as a Royal Engineer and served until I became a committed (born again) Christian and decide to leave the armed forces to train as a preacher - the rest is summed up thus:

I've been a member of a punk rock band, a lifelong biker (Motorcyclist), I love tinkering with cars, I was blessed to meet Shirley my wife and our boys are Jack and Declan, sadly, you won't meet Pepe our lovely King Charles Cavalier because he passed away recently, my mum's Greek, my late father grew up in Bromley and I support Brentford FC.

I was ordained in 2003 having trained at Wesley College in Bristol. I serve as a part-time Chaplain to The Forces especially

with Cadets and I consider myself a Primitive Methodist! But most importantly the thing you need to know about me is I love Jesus and I look forward to sharing ministry with you in the days to come.

Every blessing Terry

P.S Thank you all for the wonderful welcome extended to me and the family - It is appreciated!

Revd Terry Wright, our new minister.



BATTING ON THE SAME WICKET



The annual Methodist Conference, held recently in Nottingham, has welcomed the Mission and Ministry in Covenant joint report by the Methodist Church and the Church of England.

The report outlines proposals for bringing the Methodist Church and the Church of England into communion with each other. If accepted the proposals would enable interchangeability between presbyteral ministries and see increased mission opportunities as the two churches work closer together to support the communities they serve. The report was positively received by representatives at the annual Methodist Conference.

The Church's Faith and Order Committee, with the Church of England's Faith and Order Commission, will now undertake further work on the issues detailed in the report and bring its response back to the Conference in 2019 for consideration. The Revd Gareth J Powell, Secretary of the Methodist Conference, commented, "These proposals seek to articulate common ground and to honour the differences between our Churches. This is not about each partner becoming more like the other but about discovering ways of being in a closer relationship, with integrity, grace and generosity."

OCTOBER DIARY OF CHURCH SERVICE PREACHERS

Sunday 7th October at 10.30am - Messy Church: Harvest
Messy Church is preceded by breakfast

Sunday 14th October at 9.30am - Communion Service: *Duncan MacBean*

Sunday 21st October at 10.30am - *Chris Price*

Sunday 28th October at 10.30am - *Joan Mayes*

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

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN MOTTINGHAM BIBLE STUDY AND PRAYER MEETING

Date: Tuesday 16th October at 8.00pm

Venue: St Andrew's, Court Road



OCTOBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Prayer meeting

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

Good Companions

Tuesday 9th October at 10.30am: Russel Bowes 'The Capable Mr Brown' The life and work of Lancelot 'Capability Brown'

All Sorts Craft Group

Tuesday 23rd October 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



NEW ELTHAM METHODIST CHURCH, INVITES YOU TO ACTIVITIES IN THEIR CHURCH:

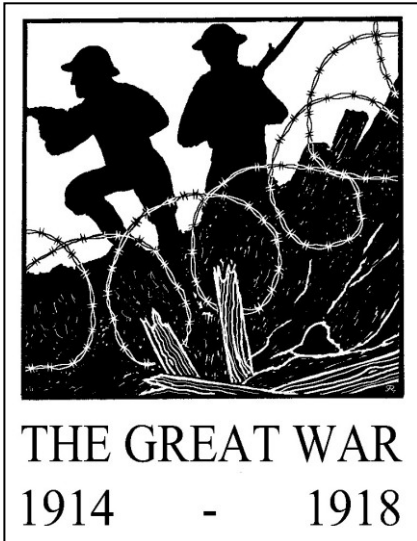
435 Footscray Road, London SE9 3UL; 020 8850 2960;
www.necp.org.uk; necpneweltham@yahoo.co.uk;

Despicable ME3 - a 'Saturdays family film' on 6th October at 3.00pm

The Boy with the Striped Pyjamas - A film night on 10th October at 7.00pm

The Railway Children - a New Eltham Community Productions amateur production on 19th & 20th October at 7.00pm/3.00pm
Price: Adults £10, Children 12 & under, £5

All Souls Service: A service of reflection and tranquillity on Sunday 28th October at 4.00pm



DIARY OF A MOMENTOUS YEAR: October 1918

October 1918 was the month when both sides, in their different ways, decided that they had had enough war. The Germans, following their defeat at Amiens, no longer had any hope of a strong negotiating position in peace talks, let alone victory. Their economy was struggling, and morale was low.

The Allies, now sure of final victory, wanted it all over without further disastrous casualties. The politicians, fearful for their own futures, wanted time, but the generals were now calling the shots. The time had come for a ceasefire, then let the negotiating begin.

The military won this battle, at least. The word 'Armistice' was banded around: not a treaty, but simply (as the Latin word suggests) as a laying down of arms. The three most influential national leaders on the Allied side agreed, and the Germans and their dwindling band of associates had no choice but to go along with the solution. An Armistice was agreed for a memorable date: the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month of the year. Following preliminary discussions, a negotiated treaty would be finalised at Versailles in the following January. Compared to Brexit, that is express progress!

The Armistice was, in some ways, simple. The guns would go silent, killing would cease from that designated hour. The Versailles negotiations, on the other hand, would be complex, though somewhat simplified by the fact that the Germans came naked to the table. They were desperate to save their land from occupation, whatever the cost. In fact, it cost them £6.6 million in reparations (probably about six billion pounds today).

Each of the Allies had important items for the peace agenda. France wanted Alsace-Lorraine restored to French sovereignty, and the Rhineland demilitarised. Britain wanted German military power

negated and problems in the Middle East solved. The Americans wanted democracy restored and the will of the people recognised throughout Europe. The three leaders - David Lloyd George and Presidents Clémenceau and Woodrow Wyatt agreed about most of the agenda, including the carving up of The German colonial empire in Africa.

Peace would come at last, but not, as one wise man observed, the 'kiss of peace'.



ST LUKE THE EVANGELIST

The 18th October is dedicated to the memory of St Luke, a Gentile, to whom we owe the beautifully written Gospel of Luke, and the Book of Acts. He was a Greek physician, a disciple of St Paul, a companion on some of Paul's missionary journeys, and an inspired writer.

Luke's gospel focuses on the compassion of Christ. His gospel contains some of the most moving parables, such as the Good Samaritan and Prodigal Son. This, with his emphasis on poverty, prayer and purity of heart, make up much of his appeal to the Gentles, for whom he wrote.

Women figure more prominently in Luke's gospel than any other: look out for the extended story of the Virgin Birth, and stories of Mary, Elizabeth, and the woman who was a sinner.

In Acts, Luke is remarkably good at linking sacred and profane history, as subsequent archaeology has shown. A principal theme of his Acts is how the early Christians moved away from Jerusalem into the pagan world, and especially on to Rome.

Luke is the patron saint of doctors, surgeons and artists (due to his picturesque style of writing). His symbol is an ox, sometimes explained by reference to the sacrifice in the Temple at the beginning of his Gospel.



PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH IN INDIA

A 7th State passes anti-conversion law

A seventh state in India has become the latest to pass an anti-conversion law, which Christians say will be used by right-wing Hindu nationalists to persecute Christians.

The new law requires clergy who lead a person to Christ to give one month's notice before doing so, which will spark a police investigation into the proposed conversion. And individuals wanting to change their religion must first get permission from the state government.

'These so-called 'Freedom of Religion' laws have exactly the opposite effect,' says Paul Robinson of Release International, which supports persecuted Christians around the world. 'They are intended to limit the freedom of individuals to change their faith, and the freedom of Christians to share their faith. These laws are the result of a hard-line Hindu backlash to prevent the spread of Christianity in India.' Christians in Uttarakhand who share their faith could now face a jail sentence of up to five years.

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.

WE PRAY FOR

Terry Wright
Maureen and her partner, Roy and the family
James
Janet
The Community Lunch
The Children's Saturday Club
Messy Church
Good companions and the Craft Group



ONCE A MONTH CONGREGATION CALLED MESSY CHURCH

Messy church returned at the start of September to two very seedy stories! Both of the stories were stories, called

parables in the bible, which Jesus told to describe the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom of God, He said, is like a mustard seed, a very small seed which grows into a huge tree where birds can nest. He also

said the Kingdom of God is like a field where good seed is planted and someone comes in the night and plants weed seed among it. The farm workers wanted to dig the weeds, but the farmer said, no, wait until the wheat is mature enough to harvest, then we can separate the weeds and throw them out to burn but the wheat

up

we can harvest.

What Jesus was showing in the mustard seed story was that a small thing that is good can become a blessing to a whole multitude. What He was saying in the wheat and weeds story was that when weeds are growing next to wheat, weeds cannot be distinguished from the real wheat. It is not until near the time of harvest that you can tell which of the two is the good plant. Jesus says that is the case with people. Eventually God will distinguish between the person who follows Him and the people who don't.

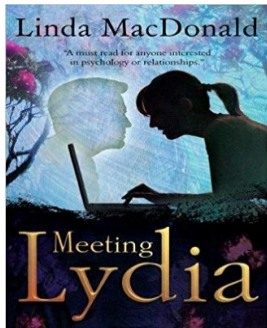
IN AND AROUND MOTTINGHAM

MOTTINGHAM LIBRARY IN OCTOBER

BROMLEY AND GREENWICH COUNCILLORS' SURGERIES

Bromley: Friday 5th October 6.45-8.00pm.

Greenwich: Friday 26th October 7pm-8pm



COFFEE MORNING

Wednesday 10th October

10.30-12 noon

Join author, Linda MacDonald who will be talking about her writing journey



ARMCHAIR WALK

Friday 26th October

6.15-7.30pm

Join Chris on an armchair walk around Regent's Park - learn about the Inner Circle and Secret Gardens



LIVING WELL WITH DEMENTIA

A free coffee morning session for people living with Dementia and their carers.

Weds 3rd October 10.45-11.45am

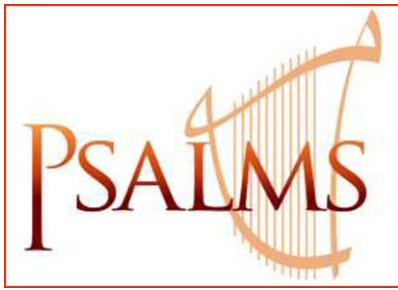
THE CHURCH COUNCIL

The Church Council will meet on Thursday 4th October at 7.30pm in the church building.

CREATING A SAFER SPACE

A Circuit Safeguarding Training Session will take place on Saturday 6th October from 1.30 - 4.30pm. To book please contact Jane Cowie, the Circuit Safeguarding office.

Telephone 020 8859 4932 or
Church@newelthammethodist.co.uk



THINKING ABOUT THE PSALMS

Paul Hardingham continues to look at one of the best-loved books in the Bible.

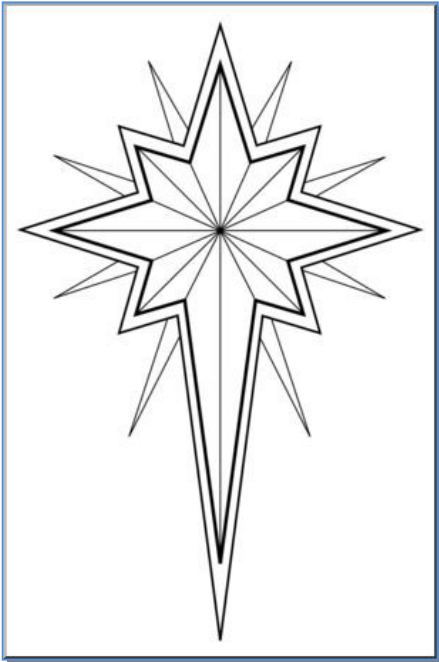
PSALM 8 - and the wonders of Creation

In this harvest season, the created universe can inspire our worship, as it did for David: *'Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!'* (Psalm 8 verse 1).

What did David see? *'When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place'* (verse 3). David was moved to worship as he meditated on the night sky and saw the moon and stars pointing to their Maker. His words point to the work of a great artist, whose art reflects the character of the artist Himself. How vast is the universe in which we live! It speaks of a creation shot through with meaning and purpose, demonstrating the tremendous wisdom and power of God. As creation speaks of the greatness of God, it demands our allegiance and loyalty to Him in all aspects of our lives.

What did David feel? *'What is mankind, that you are mindful of them, human beings, that you care for them?'* (verse 4). In the light of creation's vastness, we can feel a little insignificant! Why do human beings exist on this tiny planet in such a vast universe? However, David goes on to answer his own question: *'You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honour.'* (verse 5). Human beings have a unique relationship to God, because we are created in His image. We are the means by which the invisible God is made visible to His creation. We are called to be partners with God in doing His work in the world, to care for the earth rather than exploiting it. It is a precious resource, along with the creatures it contains!

'The glory of God is the human person fully alive' (Irenaeus of Lyons).



FIRST OFF THE CHRISTMAS BLOCK!

St Albans will be setting the Christmas scene on the 3rd November with their 'Christmas Fayre 2018'. The fayre will run from 11.00am to 2pm.

Entrance: adults 50p and children free.

Church address: William Barefoot drive,
Mottingham SE9 3BP

MOTTINGHAM METHODIST CHURCH NOTICE BOARD

CONTACT:

The Minister: Revd. Terry Wright

Telephone: 01689 822518

Please Note: The minister's normal day off is a Friday

ADDRESS: 62 Mottingham Road, Mottingham, SE9 4QR

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

Mobile Contact: 07757 717399



We are members of Parish Pump and The Association of Church Editors, two groups which provide material for Church Magazines.