

# MOTTINGHAM METHODIST CHURCH MESSENGER MAY 2019



Jesus led His disciples out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up His hands, He blessed them. While He was blessing them, He withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshipped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.



## ASCENSION DAY

### 40 Days with the Risen Christ

40 days after Easter comes Ascension Day. These are the 40 days during which the Risen Christ appeared again and again to His disciples, following His death and resurrection. (Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; and John 20.)

The Gospels give us little of Christ's teachings and deeds during those 40 days. Jesus was seen by numerous of His disciples: on the road to Emmaus, by the Sea of Galilee, in houses, etc. He strengthened and encouraged His disciples, and at last opened their eyes to all that the Scriptures had promised about the Messiah. Jesus also told them that as the Father had sent Him, He was now going to send them - to all corners of the earth, as His witnesses.

Surely the most tender, moving 'farewell' in history took place on Ascension Day. Luke records the story with great poignancy: "When Jesus had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, He lifted up His hands - and blessed them."

As Christmas began the story of Jesus' life on earth, so Ascension Day completes it, with His return to His Father in heaven. Jesus' last act on earth was to bless His disciples. He and they had a bond as close as could be: they had just lived through

three tumultuous years of public ministry and miracles – persecution and death – and resurrection! Just as we part from our nearest and dearest by still looking at them with love and memories in our eyes, so exactly did Jesus: 'While He was blessing them, He left them and was taken up into heaven.' (Luke 24 verses 50-51) He was not forsaking them, but merely going on ahead to a kingdom which would also be theirs one day: 'I am ascending to my Father and to your Father, to my God and your God...' (John 20' verse 17)

The disciples were surely the most favoured folk in history. Imagine being one of the last few people on earth to be face to face with Jesus, and have Him look on you with love. No wonder then that Luke goes on: 'they worshipped Him - and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.' (Luke 24:52,53)

No wonder they praised God! They knew they would see Jesus again one day! 'I am going to prepare a place for you... I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.' (John 14:2,3) In the meantime, Jesus had work for them to do: to take the Gospel to every nation on earth.



## THINKING ABOUT THE BEATITUDES

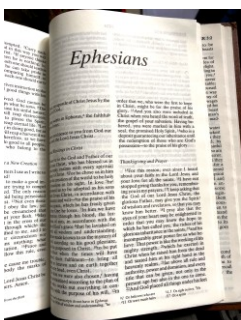
*Paul Hardingham guides us through the Beatitudes*

### 1. Blessed are the Poor in Spirit'

Jesus begins the Sermon on the Mount with the Beatitudes (Matthew 5 verses 1-12). The word *blessed* describes how we can live under God's blessing. Jesus talks about the 'beautiful attitudes' (Billy Graham) that characterise followers of Jesus. They speak more about 'who we are' than 'what we do' and reflect perfectly the character of Jesus that He wants to develop in us.

**'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.'** is the first beatitude (5 verse 3). To be 'poor in spirit' is not simply being poor economically, as the word used means 'being dependent on others for support'. It is the opposite of spiritual pride, recognising that we all fall short of God's standards in our thoughts, words and actions.

It's not just about what we do for God, but what He has done for us through Jesus' death on the cross. As we bring our sin, guilt, shame and failure to Him, in grace He offers us His love, acceptance and forgiveness. We come with empty hands: 'Nothing in my hands I bring, simply to thy cross I cling' (Augustus Toplady). This is well illustrated by the tax collector in Jesus' parable: 'God have mercy on me, a sinner' (Luke 18 verse 13). It is cry that says 'O God, I am in a mess. I've got nothing to offer. I haven't begun to pray or hear you properly. I am spiritually poor' To those who cry out like this, Jesus says 'theirs is the kingdom of heaven' (verse 3). The kingdom of God flings opens its doors to beggars!

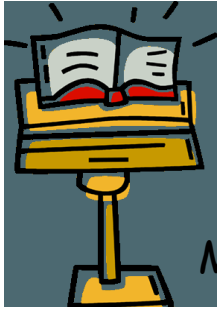


## THINKING ABOUT EPHESIANS

Churches together in Mottingham will continue bible studies in Ephesians on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month at 8.00pm.

Venue: St Andrews Manse 223 Court Road, SE9 4TQ

**ALL ARE WELCOME**



## DIARY OF CHURCH SERVICE PREACHERS MAY 2019

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May at 10.30am - Messy Church**  
Messy Church is preceded by breakfast

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May at 10.30am - Service of Holy Communion combined with the Church AGM - Terry Wright**

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May at 10.30am - Maureen Spinks**

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May at 10.30am - David Ball**

May 2019						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Prayer meeting

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May at 7.30pm: At the house of Eddie and Dallas Green

### Good Companions

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May at 10.30am: Peggy Hoare 'A Few More words'

### All Sorts Craft Group

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> May at 10.00-11.30am

### Community Lunch

Every Wednesday at 12.30pm

### Saturday Youth Club

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



As from 13<sup>th</sup> May, Terry Wright will no longer be our minister as he takes responsibility for Orpington and Chelsfield. Thank you, Terry, for all you have done for us and our church. You will be missed. Maureen Spinks will have pastoral care of Bromley Common and us and Duncan Macbean will take pastoral oversight of both churches. Maureen will be the 'point of contact' for the daily ministry, and Duncan will oversee the Council and property meetings.



## 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 10.00 - 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



**MAY 2019**



### **CHRISTIAN AID BIG BREKKIE**

11th May 9-11am.

For the third year running Churches Together in Nottingham are holding a 'BIG BREKKIE' free in the Nottingham Methodist Church Hall. **Come, and Bring a Friend! DONATIONS TO CHRISTIAN AID**

### **CHRISTIAN AID 'Sponsored Reading'**

Saturday 18th May

At St Andrews Church

### **CHRISTIAN AID 'Circle the City'**

Short or longer sponsored walk visiting churches in the city of London for Christian Aid on Sunday 19th May. 1.00-5.00pm.

For further information go to:

[www.christianaid.org.uk/fundraising/circle-the-city](http://www.christianaid.org.uk/fundraising/circle-the-city)

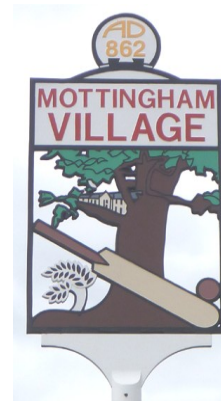
## IN AND AROUND MOTTINGHAM AND BROMLEY

### MOTTINGHAM LIBRARY IN MAY

**Bromley and Greenwich Councillors' Surgeries:**

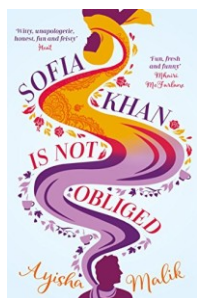
**Bromley:** 6.45-8.00pm on the first Tuesday of the month.

**Greenwich:** 7-8pm on the last Friday of the month.



### Coffee Morning: Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 10.30-12

Mark Stickings, archivist at Eltham College, will be talking about the history of Eltham College and the Mottingham area



### Armchair Walk: Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May 6.15-7.30pm

**'London, a capital place for love'**

Celebrating "Sofia Khan is not Obligated" by Ayisha Malik. Cityread London Book 2019, take a walk along Pall Mall.



### **MRA NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The 87th Annual General Meeting of the Mottingham Members Association will be held on Wednesday 1st May 2019 at 8.00 pm at St Andrews Church Hall, Court Road, SE9. Guest speaker: Mr Ian Small on Severndroog Castle



### **NEW ELTHAM COMMUNITY PRODUCTIONS**

435 Footscray Road, London SE9 3UL

020 8850 2960; [www.necp.org.uk](http://www.necp.org.uk);

[necpneweltham@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:necpneweltham@yahoo.co.uk);

**'Guys & Dolls'** - This fabulouse musical is the next performance of New Eltham Community Productions.

Dates: 9th-11th May at 7.30 pm

Price: £12.00 per person (booking fee applies on line)

Contact: 020 8851 9881; Website: <http://www.necp.org.uk>





## ONCE A MONTH CONGREGATION CALLED MESSY CHURCH

THEME: PALM SUNDAY TO EASTER



Messy Church prepared for Jesus' ride into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey when the crowds waved palms and shouted out: "Hosanna to the Son of David!"  
"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"



Messy Church then thought about the trial of Jesus in Jerusalem and His death on the cross and then His resurrection and the promise it gives us of new life which their Easter eggs and empty cross reminded them of..



## 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

Duncan Macbean  
Maureen Spinks  
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

**STOP  
PRESS!**

We now have a new microphone donated by Terry Wright! It is easy to use and the volume is wonderful. Thank you, Terry!

## MOTTINGHAM METHODIST CHURCH NOTICE BOARD

### CONTACTS:

**The Minister:** Rev Duncan MacBean. Tel: 07432 093353

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

**The Deacon:** Maureen Spinks. Tel: 01689 821956

Please note: The deacon's normal day off is Tuesday.

**The Senior Steward:** Dallas Green. Tel: 020 8617 0076

**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.