

**MOTTINGHAM METHODIST CHURCH
MESSENGER
MARCH 2019**

LENT

A TIME TO PREPARE FOR EASTER.

**SEARCH ME, O GOD, AND KNOW MY
HEART, TEST ME AND KNOW MY
THOUGHTS, POINT OUT ANYTHING IN
ME THAT OFFENDS YOU AND LEAD ME
ALONG THE PATH OF EVERLASTING LIFE.**

(PSALM 139 VERSES 23 AND 24).

LENT

A TIME TO PREPARE

'BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD'

Many years ago, at the Pleasure Beach at Blackpool, there was a certain 'ride' or amusement that was strictly for the physically fit. It consisted of a flat wooden disc about 20 feet in diameter and set at an angle of 45 degrees in the floor. When it began to rotate, the aim was to get to the centre where there was a pole. As the disc rotated faster and faster, everyone who failed to get to the pole got flung off. Nowadays there's probably a regulation banning it as far too dangerous!

The principle of the game was a basic law of physics. When any wheel rotates, the outer rim moves fastest of all. Half way to the centre and you are moving a lot more slowly. And, at least theoretically, at the absolute centre will be a point which is totally still. That's why anyone who reached that pole could stand there quite comfortably.

We are just starting the Church's season of Lent. It's generally thought of as being a time for giving up chocolate, wine, whatever. But it's really a time to remind us that in our own rapidly spinning world, God is the still centre.

All around God is motion, sound, change and decay - galaxies circling, seasons and years rotating, life developing and decaying. And at the still centre, where there is no variability, is God, the same yesterday, today and forever.

At Christmas, we thanked God for entering the ever moving and changing life of the world. But one great characteristic of Jesus was His stillness. Busy, harassed, injured people found someone with neither clever chat nor idle gossip, neither vulgar boasting nor loud opinion. His life always seemed to rotate round a still central point, which gave Him His balance and authority.

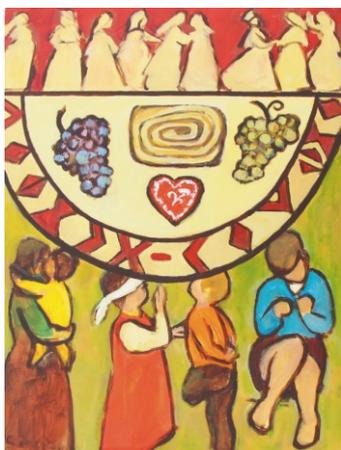
"Be still then and know that I am God" wrote the Psalmist.

Lent is a time for us to stop and remember that. Lent is a good time to be a little more silent than usual - quicker to listen and slower to speak. And the more silent spaces we give ourselves, the more we'll give that still, small Voice within.

God's stillness is still full of energy. That still centre of the spinning disc is also the point which drives the rest of the rotating circle. Equally, when we're in touch with that still centre, we'll be able to give strength and support to those who feel they're spinning at the edges.

Being still does mean that we need to take time to pause, to take stock, to take a critical look at our lives. That's what Lent is about. On the spinning discs of our own lives, we need to remember that there is a **Still Centre**, calm and yet full of energy - which is where God is.

(Rev Dr Gary Bowness)



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: FRIDAY 1ST MARCH

Theme 'Come - Everything is Ready!' Luke 14:15-24
Prepared by the women of Slovenia

At the core of the theme for WDP 2019, is an invitation - Come. And to enable the response - Everything is ready. Come to praise, thank, and proclaim the kingdom of love. The invitation is grounded in the parable that Jesus told about a great dinner which was attended by the ones called off the streets, as the ones invited excused themselves.

Starting in Samoa as the sun rises and ending as the sun sets off the coast of American Samoa, we will join an estimated 3,000,000 people in prayer around the world.

You are invited to join in the service at 11.00am at St Edwards Church, 35 St Keverne Road, SE9 4AQ.

Anyone who would like to stay on to St Edward's Friday Community Lunch is welcome. Price £4.00.

If you hope to stay please notify Eddie Green before 26th February
0208 617 0076

DIARY OF CHURCH SERVICE PREACHERS

MARCH 2019

Sunday 3rd March at 10.30am: Messy Church: *Chris Price*

Theme: Lent

Messy Church is preceded by breakfast

Sunday 10th March at 10.30am: *John Sennett*

Sunday 17th March at 10.30am: *David Ball*

Sunday 24th March at 10.30am: Holy Communion: *Terry Wright*

Sunday 31st March at 10.30am: *Ralph Brandhorst*



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Messy Church:

Sunday 3rd March at 10.30am: Theme - Lent

This is preceded by breakfast

Prayer meeting: THIS HAS BEEN CANCELLED AS THERE IS A CIRCUIT MEETING

Good Companions:

Tuesday 12th March at 10.30am: **Thelma and her guide dog Marley**

All Sorts Craft Group:

Tuesday 26th March at 10.30am for one hour.

Community Lunch:

Every Wednesday at 12.30pm

Saturday Youth Club:

THE CLUB IS CLOSED UNTIL SATURDAY 9TH MARCH INCLUSIVE.



'CREATING A SAFER SPACE' Refresher Module

Saturday 2nd March 2019 from 1:30pm to 4:30pm in Mottingham Methodist Church.

This refresher module is for those who have not attended a Methodist Safeguarding Training in the last 4 years.

Please inform Jane Cowie if you need to attend the course.

Tel 07999876281 or church@newelthammethodist.co.uk

LENT

A TIME TO PREPARE

OPPORTUNITIES TO SHARE ACTIVITIES WITHIN OUR MOTTINGHAM CHURCHES' COMMUNITY

- **'JOURNEYS THROUGH THE BIBLE IN PICTURES'**

AT 4.00pm each Sunday in Lent commencing on Sunday 10th March St Edwards Church, 35 St Keverne Road, is holding a series of Lent talks in pictures.

- **MOTTINGHAM JOINT CHURCHES LENT STUDY GROUP**

Topic: 'Ephesians' based on the commentary by Tom Wright.

Dates: Wednesday 13th March at 8pm, then each Tuesday from 19th March to 16th April inclusive .

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

- **GOOD FRIDAY WALK OF WITNESS**

On Good Friday 19th April at 10.50pm the Walk of Witness will commence from St Edwards Church and progress to Mottingham Methodist Church where, if the weather permits, there will be a service outside the church. The Mottingham Village Band will accompany the service. If the weather is poor the service will be held in the church.

Coffee and teas will be served in the church hall following the service.

- **EASTER SATURDAY CHILDREN'S MESSY CHURCH**

St Edwards is holding a Messy Church on Easter Saturday, 20th April at 11.00am.



Please note the date of the next Church Council meeting which will be held in the Church Hall at 7.30pm.



MESSAGE TO OUR CHURCH FROM DUNCAN MACBEAN, CIRCUIT SUPERINTENDENT

2018 was the first year we would be fielding 3 ministers instead of 4, so there would be extra responsibilities for the Presbyters. After a few months, it has become apparent that trying to look after 4 churches has meant that Revd Terry Wright is 'everywhere, but nowhere' - too many calls on his time, and not enough time to do anything as well as he would like. After reflection, what has been decided is to change the pastoral responsibilities of the Ministry team from 13th May 2019 in order to make better use of our respective skills and callings.

From 13th May 2019, after Deacon Maureen Spinks returns from her sabbatical, she will have pastoral care of Bromley Common and Mottingham, Terry will have pastoral charge of Orpington and Chelsfield, and I will have pastoral charge of Petts Wood, Chislehurst and New Eltham, with pastoral oversight of Bromley Common and Mottingham Churches. This means that Maureen will be the 'point of contact' for much of the daily ministry at Mottingham and Bromley Common, while I will oversee the Church Council meetings and property meetings. This re-allocation will make better use of Maureen's considerable skills and experience.

Maureen will divide her time so that she is still covering circuit-wide projects (as happens at present) for 50% of her time, while the other 50% will be given to Mottingham and Bromley Common. This will allow for a better balance of pastoral oversight than we currently have. This kind of contact with Churches is something that appeals to Maureen, so she is happy to change her role in this way.

The new arrangements will be trialled from May 2019 until the end of August 2020 and, if this doesn't prove to work, we may re-visit the pastoral allocation again.

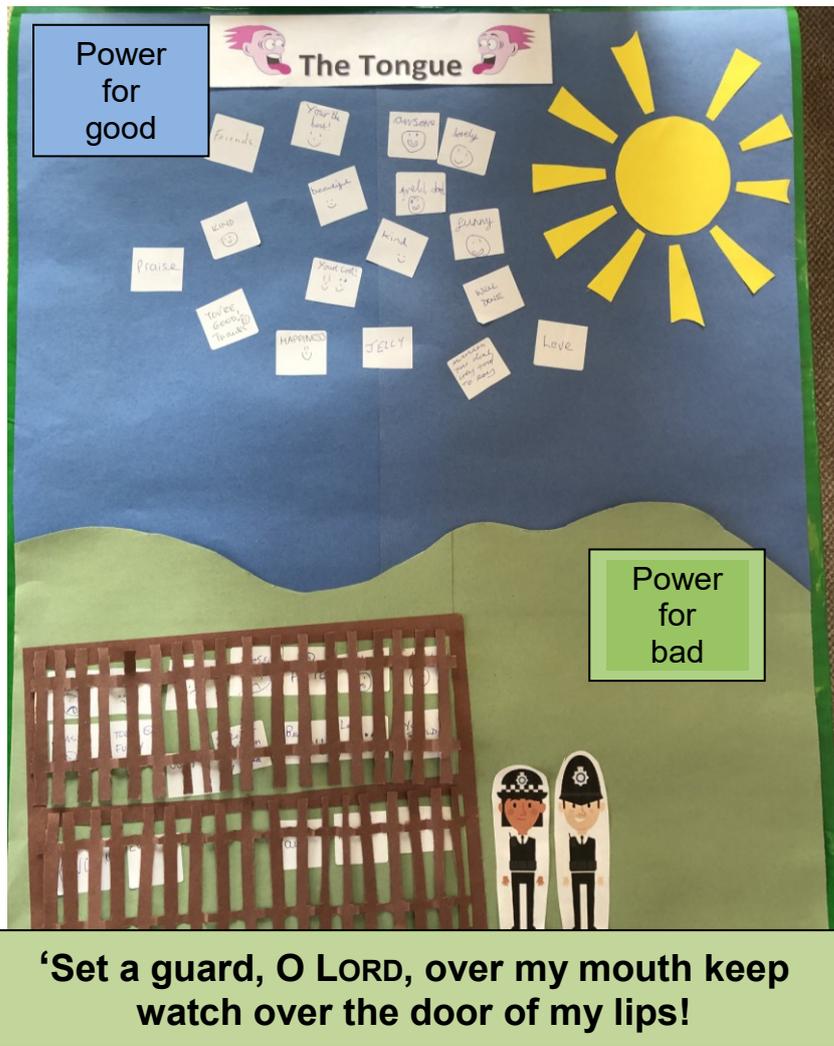


ONCE A MONTH CONGREGATION CALLED MESSY CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2019: THE TONGUE

This was quite a scary messy church because we talked about the tongue which the bible says is one of the smallest parts of our body but has a lot of power for good or for bad. The most scary thing the bible says is that no human being can tame the tongue.

**But the bible also gives us a prayer to say:
‘Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips**



‘Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth keep watch over the door of my lips!



NO NEED TO FALL!



To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy — to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.'

Jude verses 24 and 25

When the weather is cold and icy we have to take care lest we slip and fall. It is so easily done, and that is why our A&E departments are often overstretched in winter.

One of the fears that besets many believers is that they will take a tumble spiritually and fall into sin. They are unsure whether they can keep their footing when there are so many temptations around them, and when the values of society are so against Christian standards. They worry that they will not be able to keep up their good intentions to follow Jesus.

Here, through this doxology, we are given a great encouragement to believe that we can stand firm without falling because Jesus is there to help and support us.

Temptation is real and persistent, and sin will always be waiting to catch us out but even when we are weak and vulnerable, we need not fall because the Lord is our Keeper. As the Psalmist said, **"He will not let your foot slip - He who watches over you will not slumber; indeed, He who watches over Israel will neither slumber not sleep."** (Psalm 121:3 and 4)

Having set out on the heavenly journey, we will arrive home safely because of Christ's amazing grace. Through His blood shed on the cross we have been cleansed from every sin, and with His help will take our place in the presence of God. This is our confidence.

"'Twas grace that brought me safe thus far, And grace shall lead me home." (John Newton, 'Amazing Grace!')

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



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

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

'Penguins of Madagascar' - A **'SATURDAY FAMILY FILM**

Saturday 2nd March 2019 at 3.00 pm

Films are for children and families, so all children must be accompanied by a responsible adult. The film itself is free, and refreshments will be available for a small charge.

'The Imitation Game' A **FILM NIGHT** Starring Benedict Cumberbach and Keira Knightley.

Wednesday 13th March at 7.00 pm

Price: £1.00 for refreshments. Film free



THINKING ABOUT THE PSALMS

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

Psalm 95's wise words on worship

'Man's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever'

Psalm 95 invites us to worship God and to engage with His presence and power.

REJOICING IN GOD (verses 1-5): *'Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord.'* (verse 1). In worship we are called to praise God through *'singing, shouting and extolling'*, because He is our king (verse 3), creator (verse 4) and rock (verse 1). He truly has the whole world in His hands, including you and me! Whatever our circumstances, worship enables us to acknowledge his sovereignty over our lives.

REVERENCE BEFORE GOD (verses 6&7): *'Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.'* (verse 6). Worship brings us into the place of submission before God. The NT word for worship means *'to prostrate'* ourselves before Him. It challenges the counterfeit 'gods' in our lives eg. power, money, sex, work etc., as well as calling us to trust Him in whatever we are facing, as He is a loving shepherd who cares for us.

RESPONDING TO GOD (verses 8-11): *'Today, if only you would hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as you did...in the wilderness,'* (verses 8&9). Our worship enables us to listen and hear God's voice. He has a fresh word to speak into our lives on a daily basis. Unlike the people of Israel in the wilderness, we are warned not to harden our hearts, but to embrace God's new life. The test of genuine worship is not whether it feels good or fits our taste, but does it lead to greater obedience in our lives.

Johann Sebastian Bach headed all his compositions with S.D.G. ie *'Soli Dei Gratia'*, which means *'To God alone be the glory'*.

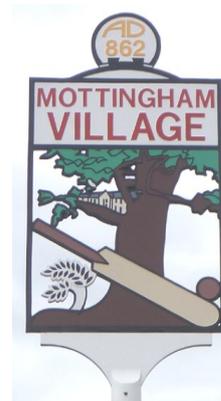
IN AND AROUND MOTTINGHAM AND BROMLEY

MOTTINGHAM LIBRARY IN MARCH

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 13th March from 10.30-12 noon

Come and make a card with Chris at our craft morning or bring a crafty project



Armchair Walk

Friday 15th March from 6.15-7.30

Cabbies, Camels & Cleopatra's Needle

Join Chris for an armchair walk near the Embankment.



Bromley Ecumenical Singers

SPRING CONCERT 2019:

Date and time: Saturday 23rd March at 7.30 pm

Venue: St Augustine's Church, Southborough Lane, Bromley

Programme: Rossini - Stabat Mater: Gounod: Messe Solennelle.

Tickets: 020 8697 0759

The concert is in aid of Médecins Sans Frontières and in memory of Peter Dulle

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

MOTTINGHAM METHODIST CHURCH NOTICE BOARD

CONTACTS:

The Minister: Revd. Terry Wright

Telephone: 01689 822518

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

The Senior Steward: Dallas Green

Telephone: 020 8817 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