

MOTTINGHAM METHODIST CHURCH MESSENGER SEPTEMBER 2019

SEPTEMBER:
THE DOORWAY TO A NEW CHURCH YEAR





MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR TIME

September is the time of year when we get back to normal routine after the summer break. It's an opportunity to ask how God wants us to make the most of the time He gives us. Although we can't always choose how we use our time, we can control our attitude towards it. How can we use our time wisely?

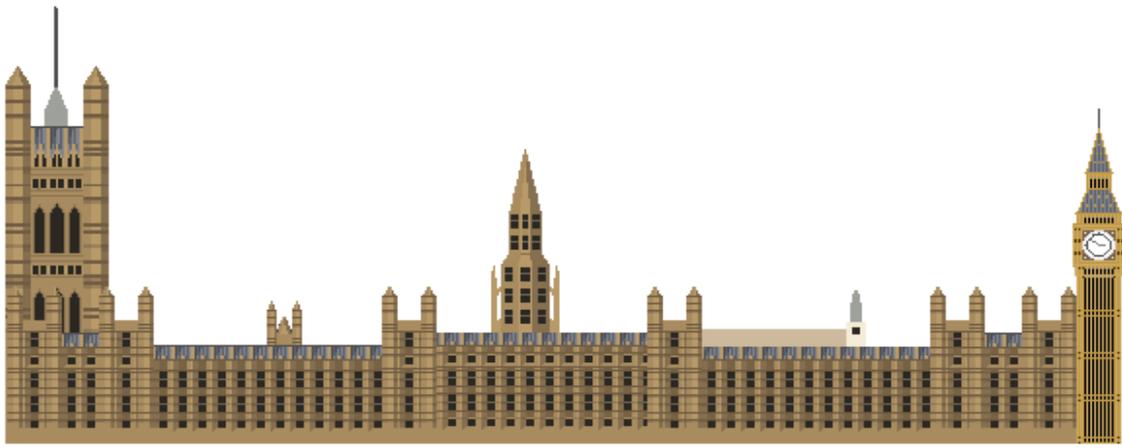
Firstly, **see time is a gift from God**. Each day is an opportunity to know God better and serve Him. Time isn't inexhaustible, as someday our time on earth will end. 'Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.' (Psalm 90:12). The first thing we can do when we awake is thank God for the gift of another day.

Secondly, **commit your time to God**. Time is not to be wasted, but to be used for God's glory. We are accountable to God for the way that we use our time: 'Be very careful, then, how you live - not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity' (Ephesians 5:15,16). We should ask God to help us organise our time more wisely, to reflect His concerns.

Thirdly, **set aside time for God, others and ourselves**. How often can we go through a whole day without thinking about God or ignoring someone who needs our help? This is because we relegate God to our spare time, so He ends up at the bottom of our list of priorities. Jesus said, 'Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness' (Matthew 6:33). If we prioritise our time for God, people and our needs, the rest of life will fit around them.

'I have so much to do today that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer.' (Martin Luther).

Paul Hardingham



SONGS AND PRAYERS AT WESTMINSTER

Six hundred people, including MPs, peers and Christian leaders, met in Westminster Hall on a Tuesday morning in July to sing worship songs and pray as Bishop Sarah Mullally spoke about valuing those who hold opposite opinions. This prayer by SNP MP David Linden is worth sharing:

"Heavenly Father, we thank you for the amazing opportunity to gather here this morning to worship and proclaim your great name and give thanks for our salvation, paid for by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. And Lord, at this time, we pray for our politics, both here in Westminster and right across these islands.

"Give us wisdom, God, to make wise decisions about our nations' futures, and guide us to decisions which are just and fair. Lord, help us to demonstrate a positive Christ-like witness as we seek to navigate the tricky waters of Brexit and with our domestic politics. And for those of us who already know you passionately, Lord, I pray that we would disagree well and do so with grace and brotherly love. And Lord, help us to speak truth in power and make decisions which are not for the convenience of merely today or political expediency but instead, help us to make decisions which improve people's lives and advance your kingdom here on Earth. God, I ask that you would use these volatile times to cause people to reflect on where they draw encouragement from. We pray Lord that these too would come to know and love you and recognise the immense sacrifice of your Son, Jesus Christ, Amen."



DIARY OF CHURCH SERVICE PREACHERS SEPTEMBER 2019

Sunday 1st September at 10.30am - Sue Cope
Sunday 8th September at 10.30am - David Ball
Sunday 15th September at 10.30am - Maureen
Spinks

Sunday 22nd September at 10.30am - Jacquie Gardner
Sunday 29th September at 10.30am - Debora Spinks



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Messy Church CANCELLED

Prayer meeting

Wednesday 4th September at 7.30pm: At the
house of Eddie and Dallas Green

Good Companions

Tuesday 10th September at 10.30am.

All Sorts Craft Group

Tuesday 24th September at 10.30am to 12.00md

Community Lunch

Every Wednesday at 12.30pm

Saturday Youth Club

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

MONTHLY BIBLE STUDY

Churches together in Mottingham will continue bible studies on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 8.00pm.

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

Theme: The book of Galatians.

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 - 12.00md**
All sorts craft group
- **EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 12.30pm**
Community Lunch
- **EVERY SATURDAY FROM 7 - 10pm**
Saturday Youth Club - for 9 - 14 year olds

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 11th September at 10.30-12 noon

Sarah Croft will be talking about Thankfull Sturdee, who was a prolific photographer based in Deptford



Armchair Walk: Friday 30th August at 6.15-7.30

Mayfair- Selfridges, Scales & a Sub-Station
Join Chris on a walk south of Oxford Street.



We are very sad to tell you that our dear friend and church member, John Archer, died on Sunday 11th August. John and Jean, his wife, moved to Mottingham 2 years ago and we loved having them worship with us. Our sympathies go to Jean, Susan and Paul and their families and friends.



THINKING ABOUT THE BEATITUDES

Rev Paul Hardingham continues his series.

5. The Beatitudes: 'Blessed are the merciful'

'One difference between grace and mercy is that grace is getting what we don't deserve (favour), and mercy is not getting what we do deserve (justice).' (R.T. Kendall). Jesus calls us to show mercy in our everyday relationships: *'Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.'* (Matthew 5 verse 7).

How are we to show mercy to others?

Firstly, we are to ***be merciful to those in need***, as illustrated by the parable of the Good Samaritan. Jesus uses this parable to challenge the lawyer about who showed mercy to the man, who was mugged on the road. *'The expert in the law replied, 'The one who had mercy on him.'* Jesus told him, *'Go and do likewise.'* (Luke 10 verse 37). Our mercy will be demonstrated as we look out for those who are hungry, sick, outcast or lonely and show them practical love in meeting their needs.

Secondly, we are to ***be merciful to those who have wronged us***. The natural response, when somebody upsets or hurts us, is to

get our own back and seek revenge. We feel justified when we see things going wrong in their lives. However, we are called to demonstrate the same mercy and compassion that God shows us, leaving the situation in his hands: *'Do not take revenge, my dear friends...if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.'* (Romans 12 verses 19,20).

The promise of this beatitude is that those who show mercy who will also receive mercy, for it is a divine quality of God himself.



PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS IN CAMAROOON

**Christians escape as Boko Haram
attacks northern Cameroon villages.**

About 200 families escaped with their lives when Boko Haram Islamist militants recently ransacked a mainly-Christian village in the Far North Region of Cameroon.

The armed gang stormed Roum village, in the Tourou area, setting fire to homes, killing livestock and plundering food stores and possessions.

A Barnabas Fund contact estimated around 1,120 families in the area were now "living in distress". He said, "The populations have all lost food stocks, clothing, sleeping sets and many other material goods and animals."

Christian villages in the far north of Cameroon are subject to attacks by Boko Haram militias who are attempting to establish an Islamic caliphate from north-eastern Nigeria all the way to northern Cameroon, which is predominantly Christian. The UN estimates that more than 170,000 Cameroonians, mainly Christians, have been forced to flee.

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

Maureen and her partner, Roy and the family

James

Janet

Jean and her family

The Community Lunch

The Children's Saturday Club

Messy Church

Good companions and the Craft Group

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

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