

MOTTINGHAM METHODIST CHURCH MESSENGER OCTOBER 2019



“As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.”

Genesis 9 verse 22



HE GAVE US EYES TO SEE THEM:

'A Basket of Roses' by Fantin-Latour

Thomas Moore wrote a haunting, melancholy song called 'The Last Rose of Summer.' It is about love and friendships passing as the blossom wilts and summer turns to autumn. Perhaps we know that feeling as we see the leaves falling and the nights drawing in. But autumn is also the season of harvest celebrations when we rejoice in the goodness of Creation. The last rose of summer may die, but there is still much for which to give thanks to God.

We sense that in the bountiful array of roses that is in the National Gallery. Fantin-Latour, a French artist who died in 1904, was famous for the beauty and realism of his paintings of flowers. Here in 'A Basket of Roses' of 1890, the flowers tumble onto the table, a rich gathering of white, cream, apricot and pink blossom.

Roses are traditionally signs of love, and that is at the heart of Thomas Moore's song. White roses stand for the purity of love, red for its sorrow, and gold for its glory. Other poets may come to mind as we think of roses: the author of the Song of Solomon or Robert Burns. This painting has its own poetry. The roses have been brought into a Victorian drawing room, but their perfume and beauty call us back into the garden where they grew in all their magnificence and splendour.

Each harvest we gather flowers, fruits and vegetables from our gardens and fields to proclaim the goodness and generosity of God. In the same century as the artist Fantin-Latour, Fr Faber wrote over 150 hymns praising the God of creation and the God of our salvation. One hymn has the verse:

**'How wonderful creation is, The work that Thou didst bless;
And, oh! what then must Thou be like, Eternal loveliness!'**

The Beatitudes



THINKING ABOUT THE BEATITUDES

Rev Paul Hardingham continues his series.

6. 'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God' (Matthew 5:8).

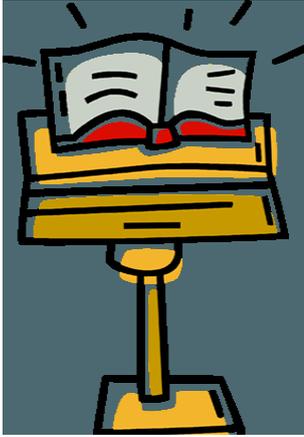
Simon Stylites living in Syria around 400 AD was a Christian who wanted to be totally pure in his devotion to God. In order to avoid distractions, he lived in the desert on top of a pillar for 37 years. Now is this what Jesus intended for the pure in heart?

PRIORITY OF THE PURE IN HEART: Does being single-minded for God mean that our lives should be dominated by 'Christian' activities, like Bible reading and prayer? Is God not really interested in the rest of our lives? To be pure in heart is to make God the number one priority in our lives. When this happens everything else in our lives, including work, leisure, relationships, time, money etc, will fall into place. When our overall aim is pleasing and

serving God, we'll find many ways of working this out in practice.

SINCERITY OF THE PURE IN HEART: To be pure in heart also means we aim to be completely sincere in all our relationships. In a culture where the pressure to conform is very great, it means living life in an open and honest way, with nothing to hide. This is the way God intends us to live, as we operate from a pure heart before Him. The challenge is relating to others without any hidden agendas, so that 'what you see is what you get'!

Jesus promises that God will reveal Himself to the pure in heart and that one day they will see God face to face. Deception blinds us, while purity opens our eyes to see God.



DIARY OF CHURCH SERVICE PREACHERS OCTOBER 2019

Sunday 6th October at 10.30am - Messy Church:
Joan Mayes
Theme - Harvest Thanksgiving
Messy Church is preceded by breakfast

Sunday 13th October at 10.30am - Ralph Brandhorst

**Sunday 20th October at 10.30am - Service of Holy Communion -
Duncan MacBean**

Sunday 27th October at 10.30am - David Ball



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Messy Church

Sunday 6th October at 10.30am:
Theme - harvest
This is preceded by breakfast

Prayer meeting

Wednesday 2nd at 7.30pm: At the house
of Eddie and Dallas Green

Good Companions

Tuesday 8th October at 10.30am

All Sorts Craft Group

Tuesday 22nd October at 10.30am to 12.00md

Community Lunch

Every Wednesday at 12.30pm

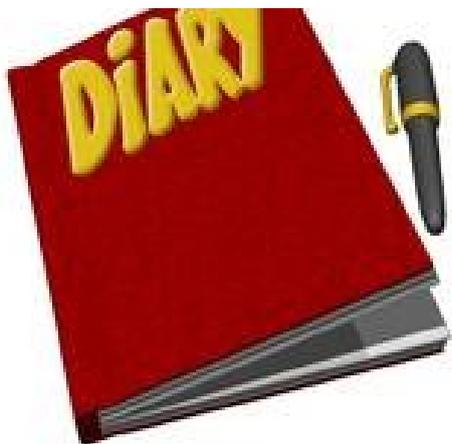
Saturday Youth Club

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

MONTHLY 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

MORE DATES



THURSDAY 24 OCTOBER:

Film afternoon from 1-3pm in St Andrews Hall. Film title - Bohemian Rhapsody. Donations will be welcome. Booking necessary.

SUNDAY 27 OCTOBER:

One World Week service at St Albans at 4pm. Tea and cakes will be available.

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.



JOHN ARCHER:

MAN OF NORTHUMBRIA

MAN OF THE CO-OP

MAN OF THE COMMUNITY

MAN OF GOD

MAN OF MOTTINGHAM

JOHN: MAN OF NORTHUMBRIA

John always acknowledged that for the experiences that shaped his life you would have to go back to a faraway hamlet of Woolley, Allendale, Northumberland where he was born, where he was brought up in a large family at a small farm where even the water was carried in from outside, and where he attended the village school till he was 14. On Sunday afternoons he was sent to the little wayside chapel for Sunday school. It was a place where school-teachers had a tremendous influence in his life. They were good and simple people, not imbued with child psychology training, who took the trouble to believe in him, to be patient with him and to set his feet on the right path.

Not only did Allen Valley give John a foundation for which he would be forever grateful, it gave him his lovely wife, Jean, a native of the same beloved valley and his devoted help and shield through all the years, and so his son and daughter Paul and Susan and the grandchildren, Rebecca and Helen.

JOHN: MAN OF THE CO-OP

The only job available in Allendale apart from farming was the local Co-op society. But John got a taste of what working at the Co-op could offer him when, watching through the school railings, he saw Herbert Milbum, the Co-op manager striding through the village swinging his walking stick with an authoritative flourish.

History doesn't tell us if John walked through the town swinging a walking stick, but it does tell us that his whole working life was with the company which he joined during World War 11. He enrolled in correspondence courses, won a national scholarship to the Co-operative College and gained the distinction of becoming the youngest Managing Secretary in the Co-operative movement at the age of 27. He finished up as Secretary and Chief Executive Officer of the Mansfield & Worksop Co-operative society where his responsibilities covered the whole range of Co-op services including responsibility for some 1400 employees.

JOHN: MAN OF THE COMMUNITY

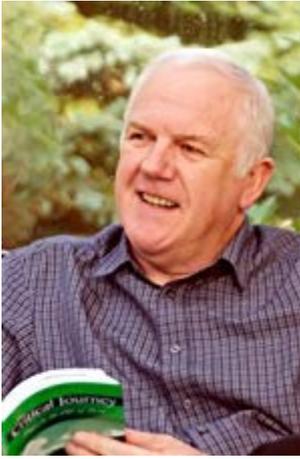
John served as a Magistrate for 28 years and was a member of the Lord Chancellor's Advisory Committee involved in the appointment of Magistrates. He served as a Director on the Board of the East Midlands Housing Association as Chairman of the Finance Committee. He was Secretary and Treasurer of the local branch of the Methodist Local Preachers Mutual Aid association and a founder member of the local branch of the Gideons International in the British Isles.

JOHN: MAN OF GOD

The influence which the Sunday School teachers had on John's life in the early days led to his becoming a Methodist Local Preacher, a role he undertook for over 60 years. What it meant to him is expressed in his own words - 'To preach the good news of the gospel has continued to be my over riding passionate privilege and desire and I thank God and the Methodist Church profoundly for that opportunity'. He was awarded a certificate for 60 years service in that role.

JOHN: MAN OF MOTTINGHAM.

We welcomed John and Jean into our church 2 years ago. It is clear that John, the Man of Mottingham we knew was shaped by the man he had been - the man of Northumbria, the Man of the Co-op, the Man of the Community, and, most strikingly, the Man of God.



GOD IS FAITHFUL BY *Rev Tony Horsfall*

This October I will be speaking at the 83rd anniversary of the Methodist Chapel where I grew up. It is a privilege and an honour to return to the place where I came to know Christ some 50 years ago, and to encourage the folks who have served faithfully in this little mining village over many years.

I have it in mind to speak to them about the faithfulness of God, the fact that God has never let us down and never will. That is the rock on which our Christian witness rests - the utter reliability of God. Like a good preacher there are three things I want to say:

GOD IS FAITHFUL.: It is His nature to remain the same and not to change. This is why we can rely on Him and His promises, and believe that His purposes will come to pass. He will never change His mind or renege on His word. Over the years this is one of the most reassuring things we come to know about our God.

GOD HAS BEEN FAITHFUL: A backward glance is more than simple nostalgia. It enables us to see the many times when God demonstrated His love and power towards us. Our history (both personally and as communities) confirms to us that God has never let us down or failed us. It is worth telling some of the stories in our shared experience to remind us of this. Memories reinforce our faith for the future. We must not live in the past, but we must learn from it.

GOD WILL BE FAITHFUL: The nature of God and our experience of His ways provides the basis for our trust when looking to the future. What He has promised will come to pass; what He has started will be completed. When times are uncertain and the future unknown, this is the bedrock of our faith. Hudson Taylor, the great missionary to China, translated Mark 11:22 as 'Hold the faithfulness of God.' It is not our faith that matters as much as the faithfulness of God. **THAT IS THE GROUND OF OUR HOPE.**

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**BIBLE SUNDAY: THE BEST WAY TO
ENJOY THE BIBLE? BE LIKE A DOG
WITH A BONE!**

Sarah brought her beautiful dog Bobby to a Quiet Morning at church. He was very well behaved and loved all the attention he received. As we began our time together Sarah gave him a bone to chew on, and he settled down contentedly, enjoying his own experience of 'heaven'!

The expression came into my mind, 'like a dog with a bone', and watching Bobby at work further confirmed my thinking. Here before us was a wonderful example of what it means to meditate on Scripture - to slowly and patiently chew things over in our mind until we begin to grasp internally what God is saying to us.

The Bible encourages us to meditate in this way. Think of Psalm 1, where we read about the godly person 'whose delight is in the law of the Lord and who meditates on His law, day and night (v2).' Think also of Joshua who was told, 'Keep this book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it (Joshua 1:8). Mary did this as well, when at the birth of Jesus she 'treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart (Luke 2:19).'

Perhaps sometimes we don't spend enough time with Scripture, letting its truth soak into our minds and pondering its meaning and application to our lives. The spiritual discipline of Bible meditation helps us to do just that. Why not take a verse of Scripture that has caught your attention recently, and chew it over as you go through the day, looking at it this way and that way until you feel you have received the goodness it contains?

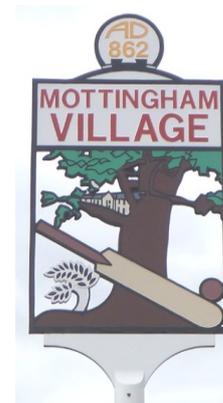


IN AND AROUND MOTTINGHAM AND BROMLEY MOTTINGHAM LIBRARY IN MARCH

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 9th October at 10.30-12 noon

'This Sceptred Isle'

Ian Bailey will be hosting a morning celebrating British music



Armchair Walk:

Friday 25th October

6.15 to 7.30pm

Flowers, Films & Fine China

Join Chris for a walk around Southern Mayfair



NEW ELTHAM METHODIST CHURCH, INVITES YOU TO IT'S FREE FILM NIGHT ON WEDNESDAY 10TH OCTOBER AT 7.00 PM

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

Neil Baldwin, born just after World War II, is considered to have learning difficulties but he has an appetite for life. The film traces his life through working in a butchers job through Keele University where he was unofficial greeter to new students, to his becoming a lay preacher and friendship with MP Tony Benn and Prince Andrew. His indomitable attitude overcame early set-backs. For Neil life is - **MARVELLOUS.**

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.

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. 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.



A PRAYER OF OUR TIME

Father,

You are always loving, always generous and kind to your children.

Please have mercy on us as a nation at this time of turmoil and division.

Help us to be tolerant and understanding of those who have different, sincerely-held opinions.

Guide our leaders so that your will be done in our country and in our relationships with each other and with Europe and the rest of the world.

Lord, have mercy on us, forgive us and heal us.

In Jesus name,

Amen.



Mottingham Methodist Church
62 Mottingham Road, Mottingham, SE9 4QR