

**MOTTINGHAM METHODIST CHURCH
MESSENGER
FEBRUARY 2020**

February

'The steadfast love of the
Lord never ceases; His
mercies never come to an end'

Lamentations 3 verse 22

EXPLORING GOD'S LOVE



LOVE OF GOD! THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!

'And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge.' (Ephesians 3:verses 17-19)

How can you describe the indescribable? How can you measure the love of God? Who can find words to convey the joy of knowing such amazing love?

The apostle Paul gives us a model for the love of God that is mathematically impossible. Objects normally have only 3 dimensions, but here he gives us 4, such is the greatness of the love he has in mind.

It is wide, embracing every person without exception.

It is long, lasting for eternity.

It is high, coming down from heaven to save us.

It is deep, taking the Saviour to the cross and the darkness of the tomb.

Paul wants us to begin to understand (grasp) with our minds how great is God's love. More than that, he wants us to experience (know) it for ourselves, in our hearts.

When this happens, with the help of the Spirit, we will become rooted, like trees with roots anchored in the ground. We will become established, like a building resting on a firm foundation. In other words, we will be secure.

Why not ask God to take you deeper into His amazing love?



LOVED BY GOD

YOU ARE LOVED BY GOD

One of the most beautiful passages in Scripture is found in Isaiah 43: '...you are mine. When you pass through the waters I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you.

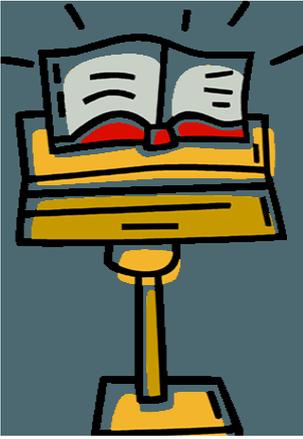
When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned...For I am the Lord, your God,.. you are precious and honoured in my sight, and ...I love you...(Isa 43: 1- 4)

Write down that last phrase on a card: 'You are precious and honoured in my sight...I love you.' It is tremendous - and astonishing. YOU are loved by GOD. Who else do you need to impress? What other ladder do you need to climb? What are you going to add to your CV to top that? When you are tempted to despair, when you are afraid, anxious, alone, remember: God loves you. He said so Himself.



THE EXTENT OF GOD'S LOVE

Could we with ink the ocean fill,
And were the skies of parchment made,
Were every stalk on earth a quill,
And every man a scribe by trade;
To write the love of God above
Would drain the ocean dry;
Nor could the scroll contain the whole,
Though stretched from sky to sky.



DIARY OF CHURCH SERVICE PREACHERS FEBRUARY 2020

Sunday 2nd February at 10.30am - Messy Church:
Deborah Spinks

Messy Church is preceded by breakfast

**Sunday 9th February at 10.30am - Holy Communion
and Covenant Service: Rev Duncan MacBean**

Sunday 16th February at 10.30am - Maureen Spinks

Sunday 23rd February at 10.30am - Pat Woodison



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Prayer meeting

Wednesday 5th February at 7.30pm: At the house of Eddie and Dallas Green.

Good Companions

Tuesday 11th February at 10.30am.

All Sorts Craft Group

Tuesday 25th February 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

FOR YOUR DIARY:

Church Council: Thursday 6th February at 7.30pm in the church.

The Lent series: This will start on Tuesday 3rd March at 8pm in the St Andrew's Manse, and then weekly on Wednesdays from 10 March to Wednesday 8th April. The theme will be The Lord's Prayer and Meditation.

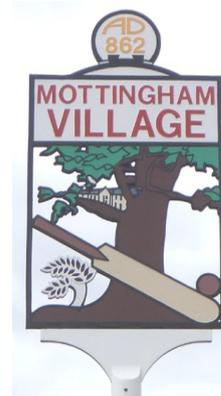
IN AND AROUND MOTTINGHAM AND BROMLEY

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 12th February from 10.30-12 noon

Members of the British Sugarcraft Guild will be coming to talk about they do and give a demonstration!



Armchair Walk: Friday 14th February from 6.15-7.30pm

Fleecews, Fell-Mongers & Philanthropists
Join Chris for an armchair walk around Bermondsey

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.



REMEMBERING NELSON MANDELA - freed 30 years ago

Nelson Mandela, who led the movement to end South African apartheid, was released from prison 30 years ago this month, on 11th February 1990. He became President of South Africa in 1994.

Mandela had been involved with the African National Congress since 1944, advocating non-violent resistance. But after the Sharpeville massacre of peaceful demonstrators in 1960, he helped organise a paramilitary branch of the ANC. He was arrested for treason in 1961 but was acquitted. He was arrested again in 1962 for illegally leaving the country, then again in 1964 on charges of sabotage. The same year he was sentenced to life in prison.

When F W de Klerk became President in 1989, as part of the shift away from apartheid he lifted the ban on the ANC, and then ordered Mandela's release. In 1993, Mandela and de Klerk were jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

Mandela was raised as a Methodist and had strong Christian convictions, which he rarely aired in public for fear of alienating those who did not believe. In 1999 he said: "Without the church, without religious institutions, I would never have been here today ... Religion was one of the motivating factors in everything we did."

Tim Lenton



REMEMBERING ERIC LIDDELL - Olympic gold medallist and prisoner of war

Eric Liddell, the Scottish athlete who became a 400-metre Olympic gold medallist in 1924, died 75 years ago, on 21st February 1945, in a Japanese internment camp in China. He was 43

and had a brain tumour.

Because of his Christian convictions he had withdrawn from the 100-metre heats in the 1924 Paris Olympics because they took place on a Sunday. He entered the 400-metre heats instead - and won.

He also got bronze in the 200 metres, where he finished ahead of his Jewish team-mate Harold Abrahams, the 100-metre gold medallist. Their story is told in the classic 1981 film, *Chariots of Fire*.

Born in China to missionary parents, Liddell went to boarding school for 12 years at Eltham College, South London, where he continues to be recognised as inspirational. He was always an outstanding sportsman but never failed to put God first. He returned to China after studying pure science at Edinburgh University and married a Canadian missionary, Florence Mackenzie.

While in internment camp, despite his tumour and weakness, he gave hope to others, being seen as a great unifying force. He helped to ease tensions through his selflessness and was admired for the way he forgave his captors.

Tim Lenton



JAMES KING

We are very sad to announce the death of James. He was a longstanding, active and loved member of the church over many years. He held office of Steward during his life.

His dear wife, Annie, died two years ago and he found that very difficult to cope with.

The church together with his family and friends celebrated James' life in a service of thanksgiving in the church on the 23rd January. His niece, Michelle, gave a moving tribute to James and painted a picture of a wonderful family man with a lovely sense of humour. We will miss him.

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 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 a member of **Churches Together in Mottingham**.