



Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2019  
**Chislehurst Methodist Church**

[www.chislehurstmethodistchurch.org.uk](http://www.chislehurstmethodistchurch.org.uk)

CCLI95928

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**Prayer for the week**

Loving God, you show yourself to us in so many different ways:

in times of joy and of sorrow,

in experiences of beauty and of challenge,

in periods of rest and of activity.

In whatever state we find ourselves in,

help us to be open to experience your presence as good news,

and help us to respond by sharing that good news in word and action,

that others may know the wonder of your love. Amen.



*Ian Howarth, Birmingham District Chair*

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**Minister:** Rev'd Duncan MacBean (Day off - Friday)



**Church office:** Sarah Ridgwell (Tuesday – Friday, 10am – 2pm)

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**PLEASE NOTE THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE OPEN ON MONDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER AND CLOSED ON THURSDAY OR FRIDAY INSTEAD (day to be confirmed).**

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The next practice for the **CAROL SERVICE CHOIR** is **TODAY**, starting **15 minutes** after the end of the **Service** in the **Wesley Room**. It will last for about half an hour, do bring your coffee!

Gillian Beecher Bryant: 020 8467 6906



**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 10.30am**  
**Preacher: Mrs Julie Gardner**

**Please take this notice  
sheet home with you**

**Advent Offering 2019 – Homelessness and Hospitality**

The Candle Liturgy links lighting the Advent Wreath with the theme of this year's Advent Offering. Each week in Advent the Leader says a prayer and lights the candle(s). Then everyone sings a verse from Longing for Light (StF 706).

**LIGHTING OF THE 2<sup>ND</sup> ADVENT CANDLE**

**LONGING FOR LIGHT – VERSE 2 (STF 706)**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**FIRST HYMN:                    264 Make way make way for Christ the King**

**PRAYERS OF ADORATION**

**ALL AGE ADDRESS**

**SECOND HYMN:                59 Shine Jesus Shine**

**FIRST READING:             Isaiah 11: 1-10**

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him- the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD - and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist. The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. The infant will play near the hole of the cobra, and the young child put his hand into the viper's nest. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his place of rest will be glorious.

**REFLECTION – PROMISE OF THE MESSIAH**

**THIRD HYMN:                178 Long ago prophets knew**

## **SECOND READING: Matthew 3: 1-12**

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the Desert of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: "A voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'" John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not think you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. The axe is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. "I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

## **REFLECTION – CALL TO REPENTANCE**

## **PRAYERS OF CONFESSION**

**FOURTH HYMN: 182 On Jordans bank the Baptists cry**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD'S PRAYER**

## **OFFERING**

**FINAL HYMN: 185 Sing we the King**

## **BENEDICTION**

Next Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> December, Mrs Susan Cope, All Age Nativity Service,
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**CHURCH CHRISTMAS LUNCH:** The church Christmas lunch will be held next Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 12noon. Please put your name down on the sign-up sheet today if you are coming along so that correct numbers can be given to April for catering. Thank you! Donations from this lunch will be going to the **West London Mission** for their work with the vulnerable and homeless in the Oxford Street area of London.

## **CAROL SINGING FOR ACTION FOR CHILDREN - CANCELLED**

Unfortunately, due to an administrative error at The Glades in Bromley, the carol singing due to take place this afternoon has had to be cancelled. Obviously, we are all very disappointed about this and would like to thank all those who had volunteered to attend. Many thanks, Christine Pott.

**MONDAY FOCUS:** This week we will be meeting at Fallowfield Care Home, Ashfield Lane, Chislehurst, BR7 6LQ, at 2pm. We will be holding a Christmas celebration with carols, plus readings and prayers, led by Deacon Maureen Spinks.

**THE PRAYER AND GREETINGS CHRISTMAS TREE** is in the Courtyard. Anyone using the Church premises may write a prayer or send a greeting on one of the cards and hang it on the tree. We hope Church members will use this as an opportunity to write Christmas Greetings to other members instead of sending individual cards, and to give a donation to The Bible Society in lieu of the cost of buying cards and postage. Bible Society envelopes are next to the cards. Please hand in any donations to a steward or the office. *Thank you from the Dawe Housegroup*

**ORPINGTON CHORALE:** On Saturday 14th December the Orpington Chorale will, once again, be presenting their Christmas Concert here, under the baton of their conductor Dominic Wells. The first half includes Benjamin Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols* accompanied by Gwenllian Llyr on the harp. The second half comprises festive favourites including works by Handel, Praetorius and Rutter with Kathryn Bartlett on the piano and Bryan Wells on the organ. The concert will begin at 7.30 pm and tickets will be available on the door at £10 (£5 for under 18s).

**CHRISTMAS DONATIONS:** At the Carol Service and Christmas Day the open collection is going to the **Latch Project – Bromley**. They house single homeless persons aged 18+ in the spare rooms of local homeowners within the borough of Bromley. Bromley Churches' Housing Action (BCHA) is a registered charity set up in 1989 to work for the relief of poverty and homelessness in Bromley and to provide, in particular, short-term accommodation.

**CHURCH AND COMMUNITY STORIES FOR FARRINGTON'S SCHOOL:** Recently some students from Farringtons School joined our Thursday service, they are now hoping to collect stories about the church to be included in the school newsletter. If you have anything you would like to share, please write them down and email to Lily Buttery: [14buttl@farringtons.kent.sch.uk](mailto:14buttl@farringtons.kent.sch.uk), if you need any help emailing, please contact Sarah in the church office. Lily would also like to say a big thank you for welcoming the school into the church community, she would like to pass on their thanks to everyone they met at the Thursday service, they enjoyed it very much.

**ADVANCE NOTICE OF THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2020:** Next year's World Day of Prayer service for the Chislehurst and Bickley churches is to be held here at our church on the morning of Friday 6th March. The local WDP committee will lead the worship but we shall need a team of people here to ensure that everything runs smoothly. If you are willing to be involved in any way please let me know and put the date in your diary. Elaine Battarbee.

**THURSDAY SERVICES:** The next lunchtime service will be this Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December, at 12.45pm. As usual, after the service we gather for a sandwich lunch (£5). There will be no service on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> January, so the first Thursday service after Christmas will be on 16<sup>th</sup> January.

**THE FIJIAN METHODIST FELLOWSHIP'S:** Regular worship is held here two Sundays a month the next date are, 4<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> January.

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December, 4pm - Messy Church  
Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 4pm - Carols by Candlelight (no morning service)  
Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December, 11am - Christmas Day Service  
Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December, 10.30am - Circuit Service to be held at CMC

### **WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS**

Those of our church community who are unwell or who have need for our prayers: Jane Cowie, Eddie Battarbee, Kath Carpenter who is currently comfortable at Fallowfields, Maureen Spinks who has broken her wrist, Pam Wallace, Monica Faux, Pam Giles, Myrtle and Neill Truman.

Norma Parry (Owen Terwilliger's grandmother) who passed away peacefully at home, last week. She was just shy of 93 years old.

All our friends who are in care homes, particularly Arthur Hayes, Les Giles and Joan Clements.

All those who have birthdays this month: Elodie, Wilhelmina, Deyan, William, Jessica, Phoebe, Edward & Kaleb.

When visiting those who can't get to church, please do take them a Notice Sheet. They are always welcome.

As part of the fellowship of Churches Together in Chislehurst and Bickley; this week we pray for Ichthus Christian Fellowship.

