



Sunday 5th February 2023
Chislehurst Methodist Church

www.chislehurstmethodistchurch.org.uk

CCLI95928

Prayer for the week

Thank you, God, for inviting me to share in your work: to love God, and to love my neighbour, as I am loved myself. Sometimes, the hardest part is to love myself. Your grace is beyond my capacity to imagine. I diminish your love by my own false limits. I treat myself too harshly when your love treats me gently. Jesus, you invite me to love God, and to love my neighbour as I am loved myself. Such love will transform the world. Set my heart on fire with love! Help me to respond to the greatest commandment! I dedicate myself to love God, and love my neighbours, and love myself, even as I am fully loved by you.

Amen.

David Hinchliffe, South East District Chair

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

The Manse, 73 Hawes Lane West Wickham,
Kent BR4 0DF. M:07432 093 353

Church office: Sarah Ridgewell (Tuesday - Friday, 10am - 2pm)

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Prayer Meeting TODAY – there will be a CSW prayer meeting after the morning service TODAY – please do come along. John Sennett

Preacher: Rev'd Duncan MacBean

Order of Service

Welcome and Opening Prayer

First Hymn: 13 *Sing of a God in majestic divinity*

First Reading: 1 Corinthians 2: 1-16

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God. Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him" these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual. Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny. "For who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

Second Reading: Matthew 5: 13-20

"You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot." "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

Second Hymn: 157 *God has spoken*

Sermon

Prayers of Intercession

The Lord's Prayer

Third Hymn: 476 *One more step*

Blessing of the Offering

The Peace

Communion

Final Hymn: 486 *Who would true valour see*

Benediction

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The flowers in church this week are kindly provided by Sue Cope
Manythanks.

Next Service: Sunday 12th February - 10.30am, Mrs Joan Mayes

NOTICES

Monday Focus

Will be meeting in the Wesley Room at the usual time of 12.45 pm with a sandwich lunch and refreshments. The title of this week's meeting is Hobbies and Interests. Maybe you have an unusual hobby for example 'extreme ironing'! Please do bring along your hobbies and we can discuss your special interests. Cost is £5 pp. All are welcome! Rosemary: 07791 603 668.

Outing to Wesley's Chapel- Saturday 25th March

We shall be setting out from the church car park at 9.30 am. Arriving at Wesley's Chapel for a guided tour of the Chapel and John Wesley's home. We shall also explore the Museum of Methodism. Cost £20 per person. Please contact if you are interested in coming along. Rosemary 07791 603 668.

Two's Company Befriending Project

This project is desperate for befriending volunteers to come forward! For more details, please see posters on the blue noticeboard and our facebook page.

Have you heard about the London Methodist Luncheon Club?

The club meets on 2nd Friday of the month (from October to May) at The Lancaster Hall Hotel, 35 Craven Terrace, London W2 3EL. There is a varied programme of speakers and a tasty three course meal. For more details, see the poster on the blue noticeboard.

Memorial Book

We are currently working on a memorial book for the church. We invite people to put forward names of people who had a strong connection to the church, for inclusion in the book. Entries will consist of full name, date of birth, date of death and (if wanted) a single line of text about the person (maximum 77 characters including spaces). Please contact Sarah in the church office for more information or to submit details. Once ready, the book will be displayed in the church.

Calendars from the Chislehurst Artists

The Chislehurst Artists meet at here at the church once a month (3rd Tuesday) and they've kindly left two boxes of their 2023 calendars for the congregation to take. They've said, "if people wish to make a donation to the church's charity efforts that is brilliant, but we are not expecting any return for the calendars." New members are always welcome in the group, if you'd like more details about meeting times please contact the church office.

Blood Service Dates

For information, the National Blood Donation Service is currently booked to use the church on the following dates this year: 1st & 15th February, 1st & 22nd March, 12th & 26th April, 10th & 24th May and 7th June.

Weekly Collection

The Collection will be blessed during the service but will not be brought up to the front during the service. Main reason for this is that many people now give regularly by standing orders. Stewards on duty will mention the decision at the start of each service.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday Zoom Services - 16th February, 16th March
Apologies, there will be no zoom service on Thursday 2nd March

WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Those of our church community who are unwell or who have need for our prayers: Roland Beecher Bryant, Sam Cope, Barbara Herriot, John Iles (Peter's father), Pam Wallace and Myrtle and Neill Truman.

All our friends who are in care homes, particularly Joan Clements and Rosemary Whittingham.

As part of the fellowship of Churches Together in Chislehurst and Bickley; this week we pray for St Mary's Church.

