



Sunday 23rd February 2025
Chislehurst Methodist Church

www.chislehurstmethodistchurch.org.uk

CCLI95928

Welcome

We are very pleased to welcome you here in church today, whether you are only visiting for the first time, or come every week or only coming back after many months. We are delighted to see you and to worship God together.

If you are new to the church, please introduce yourself to us and we will be happy to tell you more about what happens here in Chislehurst Methodist Church. We hope you will find yourself at home here amongst us.

God bless you richly,
Rev Hannah



Prayers for the Week

God of grace, good beyond all that is good, fair beyond all that is fair and loving beyond all that is loving; grant us to be of one mind in our faith, of one hope in our calling, and of one heart in our loving; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Dionysius of Alexandria (c. 200-c. 265)

Contact Us

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Please take this notice
sheet home with you

Order of Service

Preacher: Rev'd Janet Verrier

Welcome

Call to Worship: Psalm 37: 4-6

Prayer

First Hymn StF 65 *Sing of the Lord's goodness*

Prayer of Praise and Thanks

First Reading: Genesis 45: 3-15

Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still living?" But his brothers were not able to answer him, because they were terrified at his presence. Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come close to me." When they had done so, he said, "I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no ploughing and reaping. But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance. "So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt. Now hurry back to my father and say to him, 'This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; don't delay. You shall live in the region of Goshen and be near me—you, your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and all you have. I will provide for you there, because five years of famine are still to come. Otherwise you and your household and all who belong to you will become destitute.' "You can see for yourselves, and so can my brother Benjamin, that it is really I who am speaking to you. Tell my father about all the honour accorded me in Egypt and about everything you have seen. And bring my father down here quickly." Then he threw his arms around his brother Benjamin and wept, and Benjamin embraced him, weeping. And he kissed all his brothers and wept over them. Afterward his brothers talked with him.

Children's Address: Joseph the Cool Kid!

Second Hymn StF 394 *Spirit of God, unseen as the wind*

Second Reading

Luke 6: 27-38

“To you who are ready for the truth, I say this: Love your enemies. Let them bring out the best in you, not the worst. When someone gives you a hard time, respond with the supple moves of prayer for that person. If someone slaps you in the face, stand there and take it. If someone grabs your shirt, gift-wrap your best coat and make a present of it. If someone takes unfair advantage of you, use the occasion to practice the servant life. No more payback. Live generously. “Here is a simple rule of thumb for behaviour: Ask yourself what you want people to do for you; then grab the initiative and do it for them! If you only love the lovable, do you expect a pat on the back? Run-of-the-mill sinners do that. If you only help those who help you, do you expect a medal? Garden-variety sinners do that. If you only give for what you hope to get out of it, do you think that’s charity? The stingiest of pawnbrokers does that. “I tell you, love your enemies. Help and give without expecting a return. You’ll never—I promise—regret it. Live out this God-created identity the way our Father lives toward us, generously and graciously, even when we’re at our worst. Our Father is kind; you be kind. “Don’t pick on people, jump on their failures, criticize their faults—unless, of course, you want the same treatment. Don’t condemn those who are down; that hardness can boomerang. Be easy on people; you’ll find life a lot easier. Give away your life; you’ll find life given back, but not merely given back—given back with bonus and blessing. Giving, not getting, is the way. Generosity begets generosity.”

Third Hymn

StF 254 *Seek ye first the Kingdom of God*

Message: Looking at life with God

Prayer of Commitment

The Lord’s Prayer

Fourth Hymn

StF 407 *Hear the call of the Kingdom*

Prayers of Intercession

Blessing of the Offering

Final Hymn

StF 545 *Be Thou my vision*

Benediction

NOTICES

Safeguarding

As a church we are committed to creating safe spaces and following statutory guidelines. To assist with this, we need to appoint a new safeguarding officer, with a team to support them. If you are interested in supporting this, please contact Rev'd Hannah to discuss.



Monday Focus – 24th February

Monday Focus will be meeting at 12.45pm in the Wesley Room. There will be a sandwich lunch and other tasty refreshments: cost £10.00 pp. After lunch, Gillian Beecher Bryant will lead a sing-a-long called “Some Musical Numbers” (think e.g. Tea for Two...) Everyone is welcome! Contact Rosemary on 07791 603 668.

World Day of Prayer: Friday 7th March

This year's World Day of Prayer has been written by Christian women from the Cook Islands. It is the turn of St Mary's church in Crown Lane to hold our local event. There will be a welcome café from 10.00am and the service will take place at 10.30am. Everyone is warmly invited.

Contact Magazine

We are planning to produce an Easter edition of *Contact* magazine, so are sending out a very early call for articles! To submit something, please contact Sarah.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Church AGM – Sunday 2nd March, after the morning church service

Dementia-friendly, café-style church service, taster sessions: 4th March 2025, 10am-12pm @ Orpington MC, 20th March 2025: 10:30am-12:30pm @ Bromley MC

Zoom Safeguarding Training – Foundation Module: 25th Feb, 7-9.30pm
26th March, 7-9.30pm, to book: [widmorecircuit@gmail.com/07835 809967](mailto:widmorecircuit@gmail.com)

EDI (Equality, Diversity and Inclusion) Training See poster on noticeboard for more details re who should attend. 12th May, 7-9pm @ CMC, 11th June, 9.30 – 11.30am @ Bromley MC. To book: [widmorecircuit@gmail.com / 07835 809967](mailto:widmorecircuit@gmail.com)

MEMORIAL BOOK

This month in our memorial book, we remember:

David Gifford Temple	Born: 11 th May 1923, Died: 5 th February 2015
Barbara Ellen Plummer	Born: 4 th February 1915, Died: 9 th February 2017

The memorial book is on display in the church. New entries can be added at any time so please do contact Sarah if you would like to add an entry.

WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Those of our church community who are unwell or who have need for our prayers: Julie Covill, James Alabi, John Sennett, Janet Woollett, Alfie Watt, Pam Wallace. 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 Christ Church.



Pastoral Support Contacts

If you need any pastoral support or know someone who does, please speak to:

Rev'd Hannah – 07446 949 155
Elaine Battarbee – 07963 869 198