

CONTACT



CHISLEHURST METHODIST CHURCH
CHRISTMAS 2015

www.chislehurstmethodistchurch.org.uk

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CHISLEHURST CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Sat 28th

Festival Fun Day

12noon Tree Festival opens

Christmas Fair, with stalls, activities, lunches and

refreshment

2pm Chislehurst Festival of Dance

2.00 Michelle Sidwell Academy of Dance

2.45 Dartford and Bexley Baby Ballet

3.15 Michelle Sidwell Academy of Dance

Sun 29th

12noon - 4pm Tree Festival open

Mon 30th – Fri 4th

10am - 4pm Tree Festival open

Mon 30th

8pm Popchoir sing amongst the trees. FREE ADMISSION

Sat 5th

10am - 4pm Tree Festival open

DOUBLE-GLAZED GIVING

Since the cold weather has now started, I have a far greater appreciation of double-glazing. It works really well to insulate me from the cold winds and driving rain of Autumn and Winter. This is all good and well until I am forced to go to work and have to step out of the door into that weather. Then the cold really hits home!

A colleague of mine found herself in one of our modern dilemmas when she was watching TV. There was an appeal about the starving people in Africa caught in a terrible drought, followed immediately by an advert for an Amazon Kindle. She caught herself thinking that the Kindle might be a pleasant luxury to own and she suddenly realised that the reality of the starving people in Africa had hardly made an impact on her. This is our reality: unless it is actually happening to us, we are able to live an almost separate existence from the realities that face most of the rest of the world. I know it may sound trite or simplistic, but much of the luxury that we enjoy is predicated on a relationship of economic inequality with many other countries in the world.

This disparity was brought home to me in a small but poignant way when we were serving in the church in Tigane, an African township. We were in a fairly rural location and there was a flock of chickens that used to forage across our back yard, on their way from our Anglican neighbours to the common ground near us. Liam was 2 at the time and the chickens fascinated him, so we would give him a dry crust of bread to feed to them – bread would go dry very easily in that climate. Quite soon after we moved in, the natural curiosity of the local kids kicked in and we would get some of them knocking on the back door, wanting to play with Liam. One of these was a very grubby little boy, barely older than Liam.

One morning, this boy was there when the chickens came around and so we gave each of them a dry crust to feed to the birds. When we looked, this kid was stuffing the bread in his face as fast as he could. It brought home to us what a knife-edge of hunger so many people lived on. It was quite likely that this crust was most of the food that child would see during the day, not out of neglect by his parents, but out of poverty. That child reshaped our attitude to how we used our money and shared our food.

What is a possible answer to this moral dilemma? Get involved, whether locally or internationally; find out the reality of life for other people; move beyond the insulated, double-glazed world of commercialised giving. In my opinion, it is on the fringes that we are most likely to find the reality of Jesus, not in the neon-hot commercial centres of our lives. May all our Christmases be lit by the light of the manger, not the shopping mall.

Shalom,
Duncan

DEMELZA – HOSPICE CARE FOR CHILDREN



Funds from the Christmas Tree Festival are to be sent to Demelza.

We have all heard of Demelza. “It’s the hospice for local kids”, “It’s a hospice that fundraises around here”, “I’ve heard of it – what is it?”

So, what is the Demelza Hospice and why should we raise funds for it. We asked them some questions.

What does Demelza do?

Demelza is a charity providing hospice care for children with life-limiting and life-threatening conditions and their families across East Sussex, Kent and South East London.

Its hospice in Bobbing, in Sittingbourne, Kent, opened in 1998 and Eltham was launched in 2009.

A community nursing team provides care to families at their homes in East Sussex.

What services does Demelza provide?

Hospice care, community care, planned short breaks, symptom control, end-of-life care, bereavement support, therapies, family support and advocacy and emergency respite.

Facilities include a multi-sensory room, hydro-therapy pool, soft play area, art room, music therapy room and an inclusion zone for young adults.

These services are currently provided through:

Demelza Kent, a 10 bedded hospice in Sittingbourne.

Demelza South East London, a six bedded hospice in Eltham.

Demelza Community, a hospice at home service operating in East Sussex.

How many children, young people and families does Demelza care for?

There are currently more than 800 children and families across East Sussex, Kent and South London who access our services; but we know there are estimated to be at least 1,000 more throughout our catchment area who could benefit from using our services.

This is made up of roughly 430 families in Kent, 237 in South East London and 157 in East Sussex.

We have increased the number of families we reach in the past year and would like to extend our services even further.

Where does the money come from?

We have to generate our own income for 88% of the £9m all our services cost to run a year.

Our funds come from donations and fundraising taking place in the local communities that we serve, from corporate communities, legacies, grants, events and activities, trading through our retail outlets, our own Demelza Lottery and investment income.

What is the money spent on?

In the last year, 80% of the money was spent on providing direct care for the children and families.

The other 20% was spent on fundraising, volunteers and administration.

That's 80p in every £1 which is spent directly on caring for children and their families.

How many volunteers does Demelza have?

Demelza has approximately 1,300 volunteers who support us in our shops, through fundraising and in many places across the organisation from gardening to care and housekeeping to driving.

6 Adding life to days
when days cannot
be added to life 9

CHOIR FOR SUNDAY 20th DECEMBER at 4 p.m.

There will be a choir at this service and everyone is invited to be part of it. There will be just one rehearsal.

What? Only one? Yes, one intensive rehearsal on the afternoon of the day, duration probably between 60 and 90 minutes from about 1.30 pm, but times to be confirmed.

This is a novel approach. I would hope to do a couple of items plus descants maybe. If you would like to be in this choir, can you please let me know by 13th December, so that I have some idea of what/who to expect in terms of balance and numbers, and how many copies etc we might need.

Speak to me or phone etc. Gillian Beecher Bryant (020 8467 6906)

SONGS OF PRAISE

Churches Together in Chislehurst And Bickley is to hold another Songs of Praise on 24 January 2016. It will be at 4pm in our church; Duncan will lead the service and we are asked to provide a choir item, so (in hope that it worked once) we will make a choir on the same basis as above – one rehearsal on the day. Note the date now and watch the Notices for more information.

If past Songs of Praise are anything to go by, it will be a splendid occasion, so do put it in your diaries now.

THE BIBLE SOCIETY

Our other supported charity this Christmas is The Bible Society. The collections from Christmas Services will be sent to The Bible Society.

The Bible Society exists to offer the Bible to the World. Set up in 1804, the Society's Patron is HM The Queen and its President is the Bishop of London, Dr Richard Chartres. They make Scriptures available where there are none. They work to help the church engage with the Bible more effectively. And they endeavour - through the arts, education, media and politics - to make the Bible available, accessible and credible in our culture.

The Bible Society goes about its business, promoting the availability, accessibility and credibility of the Scriptures in England and Wales and right around the world.



Bible Distribution in China

In the last year they have supported more than 80 translation projects, 70 production and distribution programmes, and have extended the reach of the Open the Book Bible storytelling initiative to over 2,000 primary schools in their assemblies.

The Society continues to work on translating the Bible into more of the approximately 7,500 languages in the world (including some 500 sign languages). Bible Societies around the world are already responsible for more than 325 of the 542 complete translations but the users of more than 4,000 languages still wait for even one portion of Scripture to be translated.



At an Alpha Course in Ghana

And yes, there is an App for it. For both Bible readings and a nighttime reading on your smartphone!.

THE METHODIST CONFERENCE CALL FOR STEWARDS

The next Methodist Conference is to be held in Westminster Central Hall from Thursday 30th June to Thursday 7th July 2016. We have been asked to supply stewards and other helpers for a variety of duties, including drivers, crèche and working in the hall. They will work flexible hours and not necessarily every day.

Flyers with the details will be reaching us in January but this note is to invite you to think and pray about your availability and to encourage you to note your diary! Please help if you can. It will be a very worthwhile act of service and an enjoyable experience.

(Please note this is a different event from our own Circuit Conference to be held on the morning of Saturday March the 12th 2016).

Marianne and Roger, Circuit Stewards.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING At the time of writing, Macmillan say that they have so far received in excess of £20m for the 2015 event, which is a tremendous amount of money. Thanks again to everyone who supported this event – and we'll probably do it all again next year.

THE PLANT SALE - the final total in May this year was £545, an excellent result. It was a very busy and pleasant morning with lots of people coming to the Sale who might not otherwise visit the building. Thanks to everyone who helped. Some of the money raised was used to cut back the overhanging trees at the side of the Hall and the car park: do take a look. Improving the area alongside the Hall is a long-term project but we have started.

There will **not** be a Sale in 2016 – unless *you* want to organise it: broadly that means being prepared to source plants one way or another over the coming months, organize publicity, pricing up, helpers, refreshments, setting up, taking down, and a dozen other things. There are notes on the how to do it on the office system from Anthony, or ask Gillian Beecher Bryant for a copy.



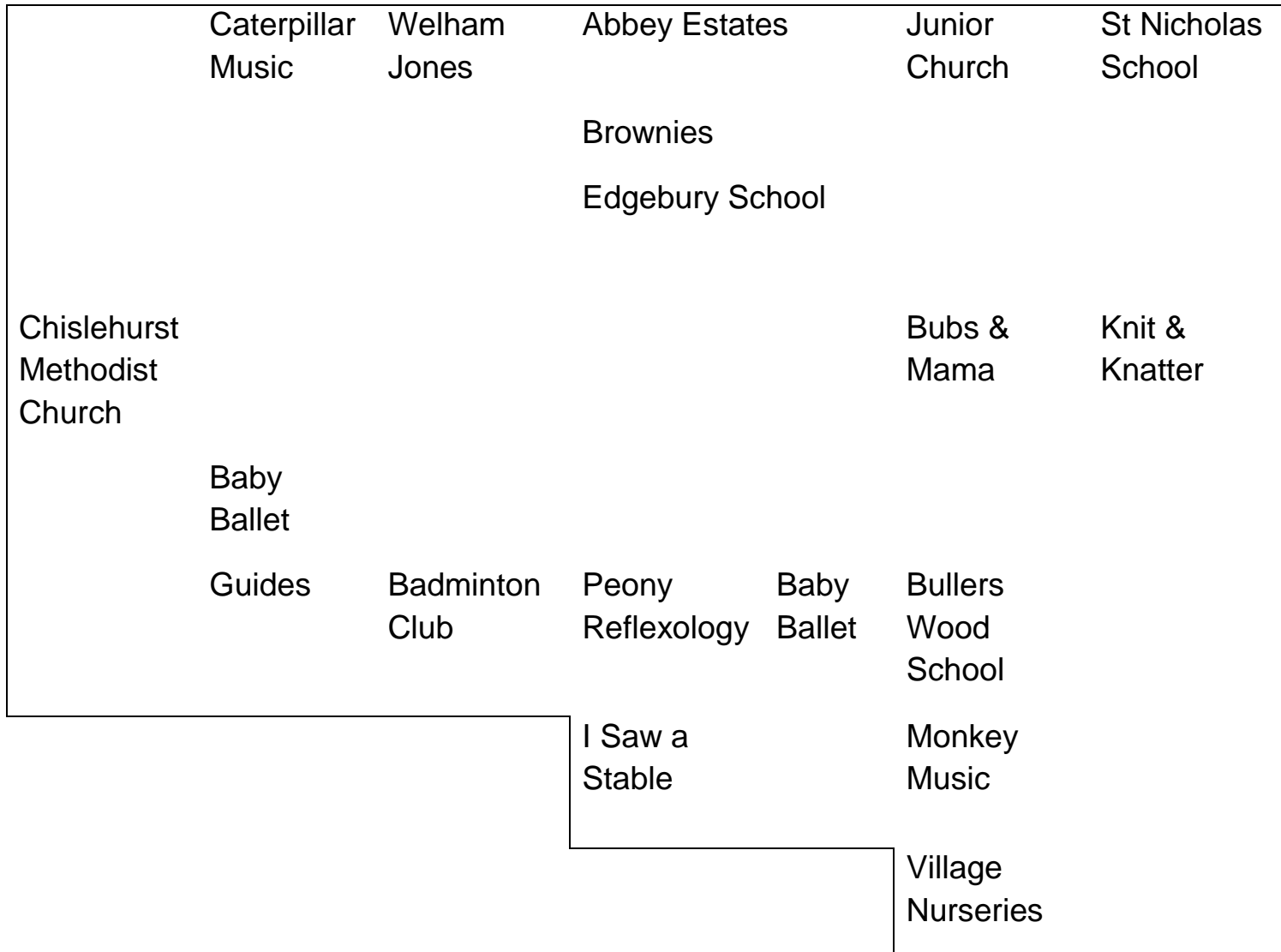
DRAMA CLASSES Perform Workshops are opening a new Perform class for 4-7 year olds AT Chislehurst Methodist Church in January. The classes will be held every Thursday during school term time and aim to boost confidence, improve concentration and give the children a creative outlet to make friends and have fun. Contact olivertheobald@perform.org.uk or call 07525 434 408

GUIDE TO

Many thanks to all those who have entered trees into our Christmas Tree Festival.

It really is a success.

Thank you for your support, whether it is as a visitor or as an exhibitor.



CHURCH ENTRANCE

THE TREES

As you go round you will be amazed at the decorations. And sometimes, less is best. It all depends on the tree, the organisation and the message. That is what makes the Festival so special. It isn't a competition, just a display for all ages to enjoy. We know that, as the week proceeds, there will be many youngsters wandering around spell-bound. And they will be SO well behaved.

Herriot House Group	Ukrainian School	Michelle Sidwell Dance	Boys Brigade Monday Focus Theoda Solms Iles Quick Steps Dance
Matisons & Co	NCT	Chislehurst Society	Messy Church
Gillian Beecher Bryant Popchoir Thompsons Plant and Garden Centre			

The plan was printed before we saw all the trees, so please understand if a particular tree is in a different place to where it is shown on the plan.

We are happy to receive voluntary donations which will go to Demelza Hospice



CAROL SINGING FOR ACTION FOR CHILDREN

We're pleased to be carol singing for Action for Children at Bond Street tube station again this year, on Saturday, 19th December. We first sang there in 2004 but had to miss last year because of the Crossrail works. I've done the recce this morning and not much has changed although sadly the manned ticket booths to our left as we sing have been replaced by machines.

New Transport for London regulations make it much more difficult for carol singers this year – so much so that we only received confirmation of our slot last month and we've been trying for one since before Christmas last year. We are restricted to 15 performers and 6 collectors and anyone holding a collection tin or bucket has to have a Basic Disclosure Certificate.

We will start singing in the ticket hall at 1.30pm and with enough people to sing, play instruments and collect we hope to continue until 3.30pm. Please try to come, even for a short while. We will be joined again this year by Paul Fairhall (one of the duty station managers at Bond Street) and his guitar.

My recce this morning brought to mind the poem written by Barbara Calvert following her first Bond Street carol singing session and printed on the next page. It sums up our day perfectly.

We will not be carol singing in Chislehurst High Street this year.

Please let me know if you will be joining us at Bond Street this year so that I can keep a check on numbers or for more details, please ring me, Christine Pott on (020) 8467 4788 or email me: christinepott@onetel.com. Thank you.

Action for Children is one of our Methodist charities and all the money we raise is put to very good use; please visit www.actionforchildren.org.uk



ODE TO THE CHISLEHURST METHODIST CHURCH CAROL SINGERS

*Run for the train
through the grey damp drizzle
of a Saturday morning in December.
Emerge from dark underground
to the bright, bustling concourse
Bond Street Station.*

*Display the Action for Children posters
set up the keyboard
balance the music
hand round the song sheets
don red Christmas hats
silver tinsel garlands
tune up
take breath ...*

'Hark the herald angels sing...'

*Shoppers hesitate
football supporters gawp
tourists with cameras snap
children dance
community police officers
in bright yellow jackets
look on bemused
the sad smile.*

*Pause
be still
listen
to the songs the world is singing.*

*God help us
dampen the discords of strife
support the weak and exploited
comfort the lonely and afraid
embrace the excluded
and sing together
as one human family
beating to your rhythm
the choir of the world
'Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace'*



THE CHURCH GARDEN FAIRIES

For many years Adrienne has looked after the church flower beds; the flowering shrubs and plants which were so attractive this year are the outcome of her hard work and we are so grateful for all the effort and expertise she has put in. For the last year or so, Sue S and Gillian BB have taken over responsibility for this aspect of the property.

The church garden is a contrary thing, like Mary. The beds are best seen when there is no-one on the premises, i.e. when there is no-one to see them. If you look at the booking boards, you can see how much the premises are used every day now, more so since the refurbishment, which is wonderful – but that means a lot of vehicles in the car park. Inevitably, cars encroach on the flower beds to make the most of the parking area, and the front third or so is constantly driven over, but the weeds grow.... In October we put down a line of old roof tiles on the longest bed to improve the look of it. Many of them are unfortunately now broken, mainly because they have been stepped on, but they should still suppress the weeds. Some of the money from the Plant Sale earlier this year was used to cut back the overhanging trees on the hall side of the site. There is little point in planting along there for visual effect, but there are some shrubs and perennials and we have sown various seeds with the aim of creating a sort of meadow effect.

We are gradually putting in more hardy evergreen shrubbery in the main beds for the longer term and have generally kept things trimmed and swept – some other fairies have helped with sweeping leaves etc. this autumn, and thanks to them. Anyone is welcome to be a garden fairy: there is a broom in the garden cupboard, but you must bag up and take away all sweepings – we are not using the compost bins so all rubbish needs to be removed.

LIFE SAVING TRAINING The charity SteerRight and has teamed up with the London Ambulance Resuscitation Training Team to offer basic life saving training for up to 30 local young people, aged 11 - 16. At St Mary Hall on Friday 11th December 4.30 - 6.30pm and the session will include food and refreshments. Details on the blue boards. Forms from the office.

ALUMINIUM FOIL

Thank you all for the continuing supply of foil which over the nearly 20 years (!) I've been doing it has raised several hundred pounds for various fund raising purposes. Thanks too for putting it in the basket so clean - I keep it for months until there is enough to make a trip to the dealer worthwhile. If you can squash it more, that would be good – that is the first thing I do with it on a weekly basis.

Maximum weight into minimum space: standing on it (and cans) works a treat.
Gillian BB

New Eltham Community Productions

435-9 Footscray Road, New Eltham, London SE9 3UL

present their annual

PANTOMIME

"CINDERELLA"



Saturday 9 January 2.30 & 7.30

Friday 15 January 7.30

Saturday 16 January 2.30 & 7.30

£8, group discounts, book online via website

(bkg. fee applies) www.necp.org.uk

020 8851 9881

Chislehurst Methodist Church



Family Nativity Service

Sunday 20 December 2015

10:30am - 11:10am

Children can dress as their favourite character in the nativity story

... or as a



or



There will be prizes for the best dressed boys and girls.

Everyone is welcome to take part in the service - we will need angels, shepherds and some wise people.

Refreshments will be served after the service



CHISLEHURST METHODIST CHURCH

Prince Imperial Road, Chislehurst, BR7 5LX



Saturday 12th December, 4-6 pm

**Join us to make Christmas crafts
and decorations.**

Afterwards we'll hear the Christmas Story and finish with a family tea.

For further information please email: messychurchbr7@yahoo.co.uk

or telephone 020 8468 7695

FREE ENTRY

Messy Church is supported by Chislehurst Methodist Church although
any donations on the door are gratefully received

to support our craft activities.

CHISLEHURST METHODIST CHURCH AT CHRISTMAS

- Sat 28th Nov** 12 – 4pm Christmas Tree Festival
12 – 4pm Christmas Fair
2 – 4pm Chislehurst Festival of Dance
- Sun 29th Nov** 10.30am Service for Advent Sunday
12 noon to 4pm Christmas Tree Festival
- Mon 30th – Fri 4th** 10am to 4pm Christmas Tree Festival
- Mon 30th** 8pm Popchoir sing amongst the trees.
Seasonal Refreshments from 7.30pm
- Sat 5th** 10am to 4pm Christmas Tree Festival
- Sun 6th** 10.30am Service for 2nd Sunday in Advent
with Holy Communion
- Sat 12th** 4 – 6pm Messy Church
- Sun 13th** 10.30am Service for 3rd Sunday in Advent
- Sun 20th** 10.30am Family Nativity Service
- Small prizes for the best dressed children
4pm Carols by Candlelight followed by tea and mince pies
- Fri 25th** 11.00 am Short family service - bring along your favourite present

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