

CONTACT



CHISLEHURST METHODIST CHURCH
Autumn 2018

www.chislehurstmethodistchurch.org.uk

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The next issue of *Contact* will be published in Advent

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

What is Church?

As we enter a new era with the departure of Anthony Faulkner (long may his elbow bend) and the arrival of Sarah Ridgewell, it feels to me as though the Church is on the cusp of a potentially significant change. One of two things can happen going forward: we can force Sarah to do things as they have 'always' been done, or we can listen to her and learn, as much as we may seek to guide and teach her.

I am constantly struck by how much church (our habits and the means of expression of our worship) has changed, even in living memory. Barbara Plummer saw an awful lot of change in her 102 years, but she certainly didn't hearken back to things as they were. When I asked her one day if she wanted to go back to when church took place 3 times every Sunday, I got a snort and a look from under her eyebrows. 'Certainly not!' she said.

I heard a good one-liner from the Edinburgh Fringe Comedy Festival: 'I don't like the new £1 coin, but then again, I don't like any change.' There's no point in trying to pretend that change of any form is a comfortable process. It simply isn't. Change involves disruption, followed by a period of adjustment, before there is any form of acceptance. But it is frankly amazing what we can grow to accept. It is only the strangest of folk who would opt to go backwards in terms of health-care, motoring, travel, communication, or almost any other leap of progress the world has gone through. We may not like everything about it, but when we want to talk to our family, we are grateful that we don't have to ring the neighbourhood phone-box and wait while some chap runs off to see if they're home.

So it should be for us in church. It's not a case of 'out with the old and in with the new', because that denies the learning and positive change that has taken place in the past. It is a case of looking beyond the immediate pain and sense of loss that goes with change, to the benefits that change may bring. My prayer and fervent hope is that, together with Sarah, we might explore the amazing potential there is in our little community. All this to the glory of God, so that we might prove to be faithful in exploring the breadth of God's presence in what lies ahead.

We owe Anthony a sincere expression of gratitude for all he has done and for who he has been. He's certainly been a positive influence on our community. Long may he continue to find God's presence and leading in his life.

We welcome Sarah to our church. We hope that, together with her, we may discover new potential and fresh growth.

Shalom,
Duncan

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE

Serving tea and coffee after the morning service is an important aspect of our church community life. Obviously it is very social and the donations are a useful contribution to church funds. It would be good if the pool of those who serve it could be widened. If you haven't done it before here is a Beginners' Guide – do it once, then it's easy.



You need to

sign up on the list by the serving hatch for a convenient date, have a look round the kitchen and see where everything is.

on the day, bring enough milk (say 4 pints) and enough biscuits (maybe 4 packets). Tea bags, coffee and sugar are always available in the kitchen. There should be emergency milk and biscuits in the office as well – ask a

steward if necessary. You can reimburse yourself from the donations.

come early enough -10 ish - to get out the mugs etc.

Junior Church staff make separate provision for the children, but there should be squash in the corner cupboard in the kitchen if you need it.

come away from the church service in the last hymn, to make the tea, push up the shutter etc. Hot water comes from the Quooker which can be scary, so maybe have a practice one day.

do all the washing up and put everything away

One person can manage but two is good as well, particularly with the clearing up
Speak to Dorothy Kelly for any more information ☎ 07947 816 143

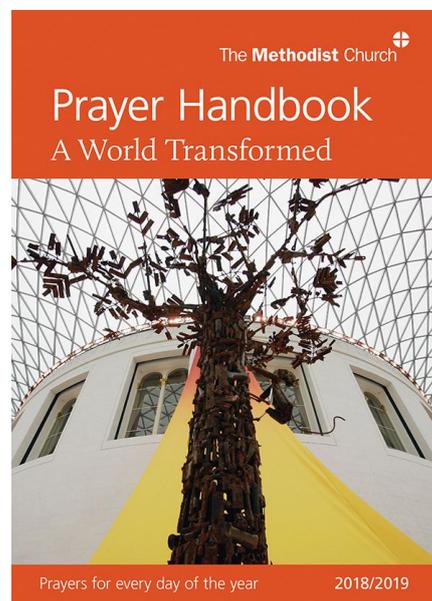
If you are on the rota to read the Lessons on a particular Sunday, you might consider whether you could do the coffee that week as well, but the two duties are not linked in any way!

PRAYER HANDBOOK

The Prayer Handbook is now available for you to take for your family.

The Handbook is arranged as a monthly cycle. You can use the book as a focus for your daily prayer and start the cycle again at the beginning of each month, or just open it at any page.

You could add your own notes in the margins to remind you of things you would like to pray for on particular days.



HOW ACTION FOR CHILDREN WORKS

When Methodist minister Thomas Bowman Stephenson saw children living rough under the arches of Waterloo station in London, he decided he had to act. And his first action was to listen.

He paid children the respect of hearing their stories, before working out the most practical way to help.

A century and a half later, the spirit of our founder remains our inspiration. We take action on behalf of 301,000 children, young parents and carers across the UK. Our mission is to do what's right, do what's needed, and do what works for children.

HOW

saw

**ACTION FOR
CHILDREN**

WORKS

people,

From before they are born until they are into their twenties, we help disadvantaged children across the UK.

We help them through fostering or adoption – and by intervening early to stop neglect and abuse. We make life better for children with disabilities. We influence policy and advocate for change. Our 7,000 staff and volunteers operate over 522 services, improving the lives of 301,000 children, teenagers, parents and carers every year. We succeed by doing what's right, doing what's needed, and doing what works for children.

Where your money goes

We step in early to stop abuse and neglect, find loving foster and adoptive homes, support young carers, and help young people out of trouble and into education and employment.

Our aim is to be there for every vulnerable child in the UK who needs us, but we cannot do this without your help.

92p of every £1 we spend goes directly towards helping children and families, and – with rising levels of poverty, abuse, and neglect – it's vital that this is the case.

Of that 92p:

44p turns children's and families lives around

23p helps children with disabilities

16p helps find loving homes

8p supports young people to find training and employment

1p supports changing policies to help children

Action for Children is one of the charities we, as a church, support.

We dedicate a Sunday to the charity and also sing carols in the Glades Shopping Centre, this year on 9th December. More details in due course.

Thank you for your continued support



CHISLEHURST DEBT ADVICE SERVICE

The Chislehurst Debt Advice Service (CDAS) provides free and independent debt advice to individuals and families in the local area. We assist clients in financial difficulty to understand their financial position and we advise them on the best way to deal with their difficulties, whether that is to negotiate with their creditors on their behalf to arrange a sustainable payment plan or to proceed with certain types of formal insolvency procedures.

We have been running for eight years now and we estimate that we have assisted around 100 clients in that time. We are funded by Churches Together in Chislehurst and Bickley and we would like to thank you for your support via the annual subscription that Chislehurst Methodist Church makes to Churches Together. CDAS is affiliated with Community Money Advice (CMA), a national UK Christian charity focussed on debt and financial matters. They provide us with software and specialist support if we need it.

CDAS is run by five volunteers, one from St. Nicholas, Chislehurst and four from Christchurch Chislehurst (one is not pictured below!). CDAS largely obtains its new client referrals from Bromley Borough Food Bank, Christians Against Poverty



national phone line, Bromley Welcare, Keniston Housing Association and from the Christchurch website (via google searches). Our most consistent source of new referrals is the Food Bank and we have an excellent relationship with them. We meet clients at local churches or at Bromley United Reformed Church, who kindly provide their meeting rooms free of charge to us. We can meet clients during the day or in the evening.

Success can be quite difficult to define in debt advice. Sometimes we see clients only once and but we also have a large number of existing clients some of whom we have been assisting for a number of years. We have not seen any cases of reckless spending on credit cards, the main reason people contact us is because of family breakdown, where incomes are split but costs of living are not split in the same way, or long term mental or physical illness, preventing or restricting ability to work. However, it can be very difficult for people in financial difficulty to accept that they need assistance. There have been many many occasion where we have met clients and it is the first time they have discussed their problems with anyone, including their own family. So for us, someone taking that first step to getting help is success.

The last 12 months has been a busy time for CDAS, with the last three months in particular seeing a significant increase in referrals. We have been averaging three

new contacts per week over the last three months. Last year it was around one per week. This has created some logistical issues and means we cannot help everyone who wants our help. Our concern is that we are receiving so many referrals, we are struggling to keep up and we could certainly help more people. Therefore, we would encourage anyone who is interested in helping us in any way, including becoming a trained advisor, to contact us on 020 8467 6715 or chislehurstdebtadvice@chislehurstdebtadvice.com. We would be happy to explain how we work and understand what help you can give.

Finally, If you are reading this and you are in financial difficulty, or you know someone who is, please contact us using the details above or contact another free debt advice provider. Our service is completely confidential. Again, thank you for your continuing support.

Matt Thomas



Chislehurst Dementia Café
Every 1st Thursday
of the month
2.00 - 4.00 pm

For anyone with memory problems and their family and friends. Come and enjoy a relaxed, informative and entertaining afternoon

Christ Church Chislehurst, 40 Lubbock Road, Chislehurst
BR7 5JJ.

Judith West - 07824358434 - Jude161@hotmail.com

WORMS, GERMANY

Situated near the west bank of the Rhine, we visited Worms on our way on a Rhine Cruise in May this year. With a population of 82,000 it is a small town and easy to walk round the centre.

The Cathedral is the largest building in Worms and very impressive. Stained glass windows there show Luther meeting Charles V in Worms. The Cathedral is still Catholic. Other churches in Worms cover the full spectrum of Protestantism with the Lutheran Trinity Church, badly bombed in the war, now with a restored exterior and beautiful modern interior and still a spiritual place.

Our morning walk took us to the Jewish cemetery, & unlike the crowded Jewish cemeteries in Prague, for example, it is spacious with trees and tomb stones well-spaced out in the rolling grass. It is the oldest Jewish cemetery in Europe, dating from 1059. Surprisingly it was protected by the local churches and was not vandalised, very different to what occurred elsewhere under the Third Reich.



Historians think of events in Worms as an important stage in the development of Protestantism.

Martin Luther put up his 95 theses on the door of the church in Wittenberg in 1517. The Theses raised objections to the sale of Indulgences. The sale of these was supposed to save Christians from time in Purgatory. The money was to be used for the rebuilding of St. Peter's in Rome. Since Luther refused to withdraw what he had written, and continued to write, the Pope excommunicated him. Charles V, the

recently chosen Holy Roman Emperor, ruled over the princely states in Germany, which then consisted of a multitude of princely states, most of these very small. Luther was summoned to face Charles V at the Imperial Diet in 1521 in Worms. The site of this close to the present Bishop's Palace in Worms is marked by a circular structure on pillars in a garden.



Luther decided not to compromise. He would not go against the teaching in the Bible and would not recant, because 'to go against one's conscience was neither right nor safe.' He was influenced by the teaching of Paul in his 'Letter to the Romans'. This advocated that 'Faith and not works is the way to salvation.' Luther was allowed to leave Worms after the confrontation, but there was a fear amongst those princes who supported him that he might be captured or even killed. On the return journey he was waylaid by some troops of the Elector of Saxony, and taken to his castle in Wartburg, where he was protected for a year. Later he married a former nun and had a family. Luther spent his time on translating the bible into German and writing a hymnal. With others he formed a new church, now known as the Lutheran church. Lutherans still sing many hymns in their services.

Close to where Luther met Charles V is a large stone memorial to Luther and his many followers and protectors. A copy of a photograph of Luther at the pinnacle of this is included with this article.

Alice & John Sennett

COFFEE MORNING for MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

You can be part of this national event once again on the last Friday of September: **Friday 28th**

September in the Church from **10.30 a.m. until noon**. The purpose is for people to enjoy

coffee/tea with cake in pleasant surroundings and to raise money for this excellent cause – everyone knows someone affected by cancer. There is no entrance fee and no fixed prices for refreshments, just your donations. We will need lots of lovely cake and biscuits to enjoy with the

coffee – bought or home-made are equally welcome. Can you bring some please? There will be sales tables with greetings cards, preserves, books, some craft items etc. Perhaps you have small craft items available that might be suitable for a sales

table. Please let me have any suitable pieces by Sunday 23rd September.

WE ARE
MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT



All of this needs people to make it work – can you help on the day, behind a table, clearing up etc? And it needs people to come of course. There will be many similar events in the area but you and your friends will come to this one, won't you? Publicity and invitation cards will be available in September and further information in the weekly notices, or from me anytime. Gillian Beecher Bryant (020 8467 6906)

TALES FROM AN ADMINISTRATOR – A JOURNEY OF FAITH

As I leave, it is probably time to tell how I ended up here in the first place, 8 years ago. It seems like yesterday. I took early retirement from a career in export finance and insurance in December 2009 and had no concrete plans for the future. A job of some sort, otherwise Jane (my wife) might start changing the locks!

It is easy really and happened in three stages. Many of you have heard the story of my Faith Journey. Having heard it, I defy anyone to say the Holy Spirit isn't here to guide us.

I come from a Quaker family but did not attend any church. I had faith but no leanings to a church. So, time for the first of the three stages on my faith journey so far.

As explained, I didn't attend a church. I had moved to south east London after many years in a north east Essex village. I was on holiday in Skiathos, a Greek island and one day found me walking up a long hill. After about 45 minutes I came across a chapel by the road side. It was a very small Greek orthodox chapel attached to a monastery. Inside, the heat of the day was transformed into a quiet stillness and calm. The chapel was smaller than the Wesley Room and had very dark wood panelling with a few icons. I sat down and felt an inner calm never before experienced. I am not going to say that "I found God" but there was something there that guided me.

Fast forward a few months and I had been attending services at Christ Church, an Anglican church on the top of Shooters Hill. They seemed a nice bunch of folks but I wasn't sure if it was for me.

I decided to give it one more try and walked up the church path one Sunday morning. On the door was a notice inviting all new-comers to the church to a welcome afternoon at the Vicarage that day. I attended the welcome afternoon and struck up many a conversation and was almost the last to leave; knowing that I had received guidance that day which set me on my way. But for that afternoon, I wonder if I would be attending church now? I know this is the second real pointer to me. I have since found out that that afternoon was the first time the church had held such an event – and they have not held one since!!

By now I should have been getting the hint.

Suffice to say that I attended Christ Church for several years, even after moving to Chislehurst. I was a member of the Church Council and served on both the Finance and the Fabric (Property) Committees. For various reasons, I eventually left Christ Church and started attending St. Nicholas Church here in Chislehurst; where Jane and I were married six years ago.

However, going back in time to 2010, I was still not sure what I wanted to do having taken early retirement but had decided that any business card I might have would not have “Director” or “Senior [Something]” on it. I felt a job “in the community” – however you define that – was what I wanted.

One day, when leaving Christ Church I was given a copy of the Diocese newspaper. Included in this was an advert for a Church Administrator in Dulwich. This seemed interesting and I visited the church and found the current administrator had held a similar job to me, before taking early retirement. Dulwich seemed a long journey for a part-time job but the interest was awakened.

This is where it gets scary; and I was about to get the third boot along my journey. I have a long relationship with that orange chapel in the High Street – Sainsbury’s. Not being known for my patience I always use the self check-out tills. I can probably count on my fingers the number of times I have used the regular tills in the 13 years I have lived in Chislehurst.

However, one summer’s day in 2010 I used a regular check out at a staffed till. Not only this, but the one by the notice board. For reasons unknown to me at the time, I spotted a job advert for the post of Church Administrator at Chislehurst Methodist Church. The card didn’t give much away and I rang the number on it. Rev’d Barbara Calvert answered the phone and was surprised/shocked to hear that the advert was up. It was not supposed to be up for a couple of weeks!!

So, a chance visit to a chapel. A welcome afternoon not held before or since. A visit to a regular till and a notice board with a notice that shouldn’t have been there.

Given all this, I challenge any non-believer to say there is no God and that He doesn’t guide us all, if we can but see it.

I think at that stage I realised there definitely was a greater power and that He was certainly shoving me in the direction of 8 years of fun at Chislehurst Methodist Church. However, all good things must come to an end and the time has come to move on and see what He has next in store for me.

Thanks for having me. God bless you all
Anthony



Training

'Creating a Safer Space'

Saturday 6th October, 1.30 – 4.30 pm

A training session for the Circuit will be held at Chislehurst Methodist Church on Saturday 6th October, 1.30 pm to 4.30 pm. There will be a break for coffee/biscuits mid-way through the afternoon. The session covers the foundations course which is aimed at those who have not had safeguarding training through the Methodist Church before and will be led by Deacon Laura MacBean with the Circuit Safeguarding Officer, Jane Cowie, also attending. The focus of the training is to promote awareness of possible safeguarding concerns and look at our responsibilities as a Church. We will also be looking at some scenarios through group discussion.

If you work with children or vulnerable adults in the Church you must attend this training. If you have attended this course in the last 5 years there will be a refresher session early in 2019, date to be confirmed.

For catering purposes, please inform Jane Cowie if you will be attending on 020 8859 4932 or church@newelthammethodist.co.uk. Thank you.

REMEMBRANCE DAY POPPIES – 2018

As the Centenary of the Armistice in November approaches, just a reminder that if you have Remembrance Poppies of any sorts at home that you are reluctant to dispose of but don't want or need to keep, you could let me have them any time up to the end of October and we may be able to put together some sort of collage to mark the event. Gillian Beecher Bryant (020 8467 6906)

CHISLEHURST MONDAY FOCUS

Autumn Programme 2018

The Wesley Room at Chislehurst Methodist Church at 2.15 pm

September 3rd	Service with Rev Duncan MacBean
10th	Focus Lunch starting at 12.45pm *
17th	Joanna Friel 'History of Lubbock Road'
24th	Harvest time music with Val
October 1st	Service with Rev Duncan MacBean
8th	Focus Lunch starting at 12.45pm *
15th	Deacon Maureen Spinks 'Life in music'
22nd	Rev Duncan MacBean
29th	Peter Herriot 'Change for better or worse'?
November 5th	Service with Deacon Maureen Spinks
12th	Focus Lunch Starting 12.45 pm*
19th	Interests and Hobbies to share
26th	Christmas carols and hand bells with Val
December 3rd	Carols and Christmas trees /Maureen Spinks
10th	Christmas lunch starting at 12.45pm *
17th	Mince pies and fun at Woodbury

All welcome to join us and make new friends.

*Lunches are pre bookable at a cost of £8.00 per person

For more information contact

Rosemary Hughes: 07791603668



JUNIOR CHURCH THEN AND NOW

I recently had cause to look up some information in the Junior Church archives. This is a rather grandiose name for a small, old, brown suitcase labelled "Junior Church - History". It contains four hard-backed exercise books in which are written the minutes of Sunday School meetings from November 1942 to October 1988. They all provided fascinating reading for me, covering a period from a few weeks before I was born to a time when my own children were benefitting from the work done in our Sunday School although I was not then involved. Of course the minutes in these books were hand written with pen and ink, for the most part in beautiful script and clearly legible. The attendees at the meetings were referred to as "the Messrs A and B and Mesdames C and D - rather more formal than the Christian names used in current computer produced minutes. So much changed in the world during that period and it was interesting to compare Junior Church then and now.

To begin with, Sunday School took place on Sunday afternoons. The number of children attending was much greater than now, with a high point in 1956 when there were 250 names on the register. It must have been very difficult to accommodate everyone bearing in mind that there was no hall or Epworth room. Construction of the "new" hall and Epworth room was finished in 1966 and this brought about big changes. After much discussion it was decided to hold the Sunday School on Sunday mornings (losing in the process at least one teacher who wanted to be in the church for the whole service) and after more debate in 1970 the name was changed to the Junior Church. There were no Junior Church holidays until the 1970s. Classes were taught right through the summer and in half-term holidays. It was even recorded that there was discussion about whether Sunday School should be held on Christmas Day!

The Sunday School was divided into four separate groups, beginners, primary, juniors, and seniors and in the juniors the boys and the girls were taught separately. Now we have fewer groups and the idea of separating the boys and girls would seem very strange. Hymn singing was a very important part of the Sunday sessions and every department had a pianist. Nowadays singing isn't a frequent activity for us and CDs provide any music we use. The large number of children necessitated more teachers than we have currently, but the turnover was very high. Many minutes reported a resignation or a staff change and there were frequent appeals for more helpers which still ring true today.

Reports from the Boys Brigade and the JMA were given at the Junior Church meetings. As now, Junior Church members were often involved in both organisations.

Equipment was in short supply and was very different. There were requests for illustrations of Bible stories to show to the children, for boards to write on, for Bibles and in 1949 for a film strip projector. It was agreed that the latter was desirable but because of the expense it would need to be a circuit resource. How fortunate we are

now with the wonders of Wi-Fi available – and the new addition of a screen in the Wesley room which can be used to show films and to access material on-line.

Every year there was a Sunday School Anniversary. This was a huge event involving all the children and minutes show that it was advertised by means of posters in shop windows in the village. In the early years a great deal of effort was expended in constructing a tiered platform at the front of the church to accommodate the children seated facing the congregation. It seems there was more enthusiasm for erecting this than for dismantling it and on one occasion a letter was sent from the Trustees' meeting to the Sunday School complaining that the wooden boards used for the construction had not been put away. There were debates about the hymns which the children would sing and the Bible passages to be read. There was no amplification in the church at the beginning of this period and it was often difficult to hear what the children said. Our present system allows far more scope to be heard clearly and to perform dramas. We don't hold an anniversary but we always have a special service when the Junior Church finishes in July and enjoy preparing a drama that everyone can take part in.

For much of the early part of this period some of the children did an annual Scripture Exam. This was organised nationally and indeed I remember doing the exams myself. They were quite tough and involved learning and studying a Bible passage. One of the teachers prepared the children for this and must have been effective because the results reported in the minutes were very good. This would have involved a lot of commitment on the part of the teacher and the children.

Of course there was always an outing! In 1948 this was a trip to Broadstairs by rail with the Sunday School from Sidcup Methodist. The children's fare was six shillings and sixpence ha'penny - about 33p. Afternoon tea was provided for one shilling and sixpence – 7½p. The destination changed from year to year but Broadstairs seems to have been the favourite and the coach became the preferred method of transport. Eventually in 1968 the venue changed to Chislehurst Common where a picnic was held and everyone joined in games. Not so different from recent times. We made several trips to St Mildred's Bay in Westgate in the noughties but then changed to Danson Park and for the last few years have celebrated in the recreation ground.

The minutes record complaints about the lack of storage space, about the untidy state of the building and about the low temperatures in the upstairs room in the winter. This, of course, was all in the pre-Lynton era!

So I read through many years' worth of minutes reporting the business behind the scenes at the Junior Church. They told nothing of all the preparation individual teachers made to deliver the Christian message on Sundays but a lot about the effort that went into caring for all the children. The list of all the people involved over the years is a very long one – literally scores and scores. Some whose names appeared frequently are familiar to us all, John and Eileen Lidinson, Pam Giles, for example. Others no longer with us stand out in my mind: Pauline Amsden, Aileen

and Arthur Bryan, Charles Christopher, Marjorie Snashall (to whom the suitcase belonged) Olive Greenway, Adrienne Beale. I have been influenced by all of these. The picture the Junior Church gave me when I retired carries the words. "Planting seeds of faith". That is what all in the long line of teachers have tried to do right up to the present day. On the back of the picture is written "For every lesson you have prepared the love of God has been shared." As our church moves forward that is what we must all be about – sharing God's love.

Elaine Battarbee

Chislehurst Methodist Church

Bake off!



How do you fancy being the next Paul Hollywood or Pru Leith?

Then come along on Sunday 16th September at 12 noon **prompt** and let the judging commence!

£2.50 per adult, children free! Your ticket gets you a cup of tea or coffee and tasting of all the entries. Tickets on the door or in advance. All welcome, bring your friends!

You will get to taste the entries and then judge on 3 categories:

- originality
- appearance
- taste

Your votes will decide which contestant is crowned



Baker!!!

If you would like to enter a bake please telephone/email Jane on 020 8249 3153/janecowie74@ntlworld.com with the name of your entry **no later than Tuesday 11th September**. £2.50 per adult entry and free for children. Good luck!

All proceeds go to  action for children

LET'S CHANGE LIVES TOGETHER AT

THE WORLD'S BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING

Every penny raised helps us make a difference to people affected by cancer.

When: **Friday 28th September**

Where: **Chislehurst Methodist Church**
Prince Imperial Road BR7 5LX

Time: **10.30 - 12 noon**

Can we make this year our biggest ever?
Of course we can!

Sales Tables

Competitions



Registered with
**FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR**

Macmillan Cancer Support, registered charity in England and Wales (251017),
Scotland (SC039507), and the Isle of Man (694). Also operating in Northern Ireland.

WORLD'S BIGGEST
**COFFEE
MORNING**

**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**

CONVICTION AND COMPROMISE

In the political world today, on Brexit and on other issues, so-called 'conviction politicians' seem increasingly in the ascendancy. The ideological left is now in control of the Labour Party and the ideological right has been to the fore in the Conservative Party in the Brexit negotiations. In both parties this has been at the expense of 'moderates' who seek compromises, and has led to increasing divisions within and between parties and in society.

'Conviction' tends to sound strong and good and 'compromise' weak and bad. But in the months ahead compromises will be essential within and between political parties, and also between the UK Government and the EU, if a sensible outcome is to be reached on Brexit. And compromise is not such a bad concept. It means understanding the other side's point of view and position and working towards an agreed solution. Conviction is simple but the world is complex with many shades of grey. During my years in Whitehall I found that on any issue both Conservative and Labour Governments wanted to see all the evidence and to consider carefully all the options with the pros and cons before reaching decisions. I am not sure that this has continued to the same degree in this century under Labour, Coalition or Conservative Governments.

In our Christian faith too the same issue can arise between conviction and compromise. Of course our faith is a matter of conviction. We are all conviction Christians and we can see that Christians of conviction have achieved great things through the church over past 2000 years. But we can also see over the same period how conviction can divide the church through the formation of separate denominations, can widen the gap between the church and society on issues like sexuality and the position of women, and, in extreme cases further back in time, can lead the church to warfare as in the Crusades, and to appalling periods such as the Inquisition very far removed from Christ's focus on peace and love.

Today in a rapidly changing, complex and challenging world as Christians we face the same issue of striking the right balance between conviction and compromise. Arguably over recent years conviction Christians of a more fundamental nature have become increasingly prominent as have fundamentalists in other faiths. Of course, as Christians, we are all people of conviction based on following the life and teaching of Jesus Christ. But we live in a world and in a country where there are often no simple answers, where there is a wide variety of views and where there are people of other faiths and none. And the Church in this country and in other parts of Western Europe has not coped too well with this new world. There have been large and continuing reductions in numbers and church attendance since the 1950s in the mainstream churches.

So what can we do? Some would advocate traditional evangelical campaigns which could be regarded as the conviction approach. But I would question whether in today's world such campaigns would have the same impact as, say, Billy Graham in the 1950s. A more promising possibility would be to demonstrate how the values

and standards shown in Jesus's life and teaching meet the concerns of the present age. That would mean, for example, an emphasis on peace in a world of strife and warfare; justice in a world where many people feel the scales are tipped against them; mercy where many people feel neglected; and love where many feel lonely, anxious and insecure. In other words, while 'Jesus saves' may not work today, the offer of peace, love, justice and mercy based on the teachings of Jesus is just what many people are seeking. It could receive a much better response.

So as we go forward we need both conviction and compromise. That means understanding the views of people around us and making sure that our faith is relevant for them. We are, of course, people of faith but let Paul have the final word – 'I may have faith strong enough to move mountains but if I have no love, I am nothing'.

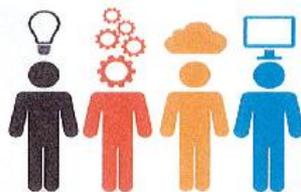
Roger Dawe



Talents Festival in Shirley 2 March 2019

Could you:

- make a short video? [make a get-well card?](#)
- [read a psalm?](#) write a poem? play a piano piece?
- sew (by hand) a bag for life? [bake some jam tarts?](#)
- [make an arrangement of greenery?](#) knit a twiddlemuff?
- [write a prayer on 'Family Life'](#) [recite a poem?](#)
- photograph 'The Natural World'? [cross stitch a coaster?](#)
- [sing a song from a show?](#) paint or draw a picture?



If you want to know more, look out for these and more challenges in the Syllabus for the Talents Festival.

More details from the Church Office

This event was previously the Methodist Talents Festival

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CHISLEHURST AND BICKLEY



Chislehurst Methodist Church is one of 9 members of Churches Together in Chislehurst & Bickley (CTCB), whose AGM took place at the end of June. It has been a busy year for Churches Together and its various members. You will often see events at other churches appearing in our notice sheets. This is usually following a circulation via CTCB.

Rev'd Duncan MacBean has been chair for the last two years and was elected vice-chair for the next two. Jenny West, who many will know and who runs the Dementia Café each month has been elected chair for the next two years. Philippa Robinson of St. Nicholas was re-elected Treasurer and Anthony Faulkner re-elected Secretary.

CTCB organised the Christmas Card widely distributed in the area; listing all the Christmas services and events at our churches and.

There was carol singing at three local railway stations, where £400 was raised and split between Bromley Foodbank and the British Red Cross appeal for victims of Hurricane Irma.

At the beginning of March the Women's World Day of Prayer service took place at St. Patrick's in spite of the snow and ice; and on Good Friday the Walk of Witness proceeded down the High Street distributing Hot Cross buns with a message explaining Good Friday. The walk started here and finished here with hot cross buns and coffee.

A CTCB Alpha Course started in April.

A church led initiative "Transforming Bromley Borough" has focused on how the churches in the borough, acting together, can achieve more together than separately. Discussions take place around Prayer Breakfasts.

In Chislehurst the effects of the economy have lead more people to seek assistance from the Chislehurst Debt Advice Service, which is supported by CTCB. In 2017 about one person a week was approaching them, and that has risen to three a week this year. The service is struggling to meet demand and has a waiting list with cases becoming more complex.

On a more cheerful note, CTCB supported the launch and running of Chislehurst Youth for Christ, which has now been going for 10 years, supported mainly from funds raised at the 2Gether shop on the High Street.

Working together the churches can make a difference.

Anthony Faulkner

PRAYER PAGE

September marks the start of the new Methodist year and my thoughts have turned again to new beginnings.

We pray for the circuit staff taking on new roles:

- for Duncan as he takes on the role of Circuit Superintendent
- for Terry as he begins his Circuit ministry in the Orpington, Chelsfield, Bromley Common and Mottingham churches
- for Alison as she adds Emmanuel, Sidcup to her responsibilities
- and for our new Circuit Officers.

May they be equipped for the task ahead and may we be ready with our support.

September also marks the start of a new academic year:

- we pray for those young people starting college or university courses and perhaps leaving home for the first time.
- we pray too for those having to rethink their plans because their results were not what they needed.
- we pray for children moving to a new school or class and feeling uncertain about it and for all the parents worrying about how they will cope with change.

We pray for people all over the world being forced to start again because natural disasters have destroyed their homes. We remember those affected by the fires in California and the Iberian Peninsula, earthquakes in Indonesia and floods in Asia.

We pray too for those whose livelihoods have been badly affected by drought. As 'normal' life starts up again after the summer break, and we return to every-day demands and duties, may the memory of that rest and refreshment leave us energized and ready to serve.

To quote Charles Wesley:

*Come let us anew
Our journey pursue,
Roll round with the year,
And never stand still till the Master appear.*
(StF 460)

Prayer Page was prepared by Pat Woodison

11TH BROMLEY BOYS BRIGADE

2017 to 2018 has been another busy year for us, we continue to hold our numbers of boys around 22 regular boys, with boys in each BB section (age group), from 5 year old boys to 18 year old young men.



Jacqui ran the Anchor Boys, Thomas the Juniors, Lynn and Fran the Company Section and Jacqui the Senior Section, John and Eileen continue to be our treasurer and take the subs and be spare pairs of hands to help with whatever we need.

We have managed to get the boys to Bromley Battalion competitions, such as: football, table tennis, badminton and swimming so far, with 5 asides, athletics and special activity days to come. We are proud of our record of getting the boys to and ensuring they have opportunities to compete as part of teams, many of our boys would not have these opportunities otherwise, to share in the fun, learning and development that team sports and competitions give, all of these events start and finish with prayer reminding our boys and grounding them that God is part of all we do.

The Junior Section went to their annual camp weekend in June in Tonbridge whilst the Company and Senior Section boys went to the Isle of Wight for a week in August. Both of these are Battalion camps which we take part in with other Boys Brigade Companies from churches across the Bromley Battalion, of which 4 are Methodist.



We had a successful turn out at the battalion parade



which this year was in the Wesley Hall, Methodist Church in Sydenham, and the boys paraded with the leaders around Sydenham and from top to bottom of the high street, with the bands playing, showing everyone we were on our way to worship.

We continue each Tuesday to provide a varied programme of fun, crafts and faith activities, through our badge work system, making sure the boys are given a mini adventure in life every night, with



faith at the centre of all we do.

Weekly activities have included this year; den building in the commons, making pancakes and exploring what the lent season is, learning new sports, making fun crafts with bible theme, from Daniel's lion masks to Joseph's coat of many colours, learning parables and other bible stories. We spent some interesting weeks trying to visualise the Easter story and explore how it would look in today's world. We decided Jesus might have come in to London on an

open top bus, (but in Chelsea colours apparently!).

We have also enjoyed lego/connex, games, bamboo engineering, science experiments, learning how to do map surveys, geology lessons, map reading, lots of cooking. It never seems to surprise us how they love washing up dishes. We have practiced first aid, we have learned how to make 999 calls, and lots and lots more. The Anchors started the Autumn session being superheroes and looking at superheroes in the bible. Later they created visual thank you prayers. Every night ends in prayer for all of us and we have started asking the boys to lead this and this is slowly becoming successful.

We were very pleased to take Ryan Jeffries along for his Jack Petchey Award earlier in the year, at the BB Jack Petchey awards reception which is attended by all of the London mayors in Kensington Town Hall.

We had our campaign this year to raise funds and buy the Church a defibrillator, and we have over achieved the target, we have raised £1500 and are in the process of procuring the defibrillator for the church. This project was inspired due to a tragedy Jacqui had an involvement in, when a young man from a youth lacrosse team had heart failure during a game. He was fortunate that there was a first aid crew onsite. He was very lucky but others are not so fortunate. The governing body stipulated after this that every club should house a Defib machine. Jacqui felt it should be not only sports clubs that should have a defib machine but also other buildings where public events take place and so suggested to us that the church have one.

The model we have chosen has attachments for; adults children and infants, and comes with training DVD's, we believe we have enough for a secure (with break glass lock) wall mounted box also. We are following up a contact and offer with London Ambulance Service for some training, more details when arranged. We plan to present this to the church soon, we hope it gets used when needed but hope it is never needed! However we must make sure there is confidence when using it, these defibrillators can be used by anyone, no training is needed. They are automated and when the box is opened, it talks to you and gives you full instructions and if in doubt

all 999 controllers can talk you through using it. It will also measure heart motion and determine if it is needed. These are very clever lifesaving pieces of equipment.

To raise the funds, we collected goods, make crafts and held stalls at both New Eltham and Chislehurst Xmas fairs, we had a film night, we had a quiz night, we asked the boys to fill smarties tubes full of 20Ps. We received generous gifts from other church stalls at Christmas, some generous personal donations from church members and we also received a very kind gift from Montbelle school as they gifted their Christmas collection to our appeal, showing our campaign caught and involved many people with our local community.

Jacqui, stood down as our Captain this summer and will be semi retired as a leader, as she has offered to be a Reserve Officer and remain a valuable helping hand in the BB family in emergencies as required, but knowing that this will free her to also concentrate on Managing the Wales National Lacrosse Teams. All of us in the BB are very grateful for all her hard work and leadership over her time as Captain serving over 25 years as a senior officer running the company with the team. Her contribution has been invaluable, bringing faith and fun to hundreds of boys and young men in our community. We give thanks to God for all her efforts and wish her well in her (semi) retirement from BB. Thomas Cowie will be filling her metaphorical shoes as the new captain from September this year.

Joe and Liam leave us this summer with Joe going off to Cardiff Met University. They have served with us from age 5 to 18, and now have their Staff Sergeant stripes. They are loved and well respected by both officers and the younger boys who really look up to them as role models and they are just that, two great young men that we could not be more proud of and we know BB has helped shape them to be the fantastic young men they are today.

We would love to grow the company, but our leadership team remains small, we have some green shoots from parents offering to help from next year, but we do need probably two more leaders to continue long term, particularly as our anchor boys section (5 to 8) grows and we have some very energetic young ones who need a lot of supervision.

For over 130 years The Boys' Brigade has partnered churches to work with children and young people, sharing the gospel and encouraging the development of a personal Christian faith. Today we are part of a fellowship of over 1400 churches of all denominations that use our programmes and resources to reach out to over 50,000 children and young people each week in the UK. For many churches, The Boys' Brigade provides a bridge into communities that they otherwise might find difficult to access. Through The Boys' Brigade, churches have opportunities to reach out to families with whom they would otherwise have no contact. The BB remains the oldest uniformed youth group in the world having been founded in 1883.

The Boys Brigade has been part of this church for over 60 years, we at Chislehurst Boys Brigade (the 11th Bromley) are also part of the Bromley Battalion which is over 400 members strong, in 9 churches, 4 of which are Methodist. Boys Brigade companies can be found all over the world, from Nigeria to Malaysia. As part of the Boys Brigade we at Chislehurst are also part of the Global Fellowship which is an international umbrella organisation connecting Christian youth Organisations in 68 countries around the world with a membership over 1 million children. The vast majority of this family of global Organisations are Boys' Brigade, together with a variety of kindred Organisations like FDF Denmark, Nuori Kirkko Finland and Junior Ministry India.



Our Object

The Object of The Boys' Brigade is:

"The advancement of Christ's kingdom among Boys and the promotion of habits of Obedience, Reverence, Discipline, Self-respect and all that tends towards a true Christian manliness."

Our Motto

The Boys' Brigade Motto is: 'Sure & Steadfast'

The motto is taken from the bible, the book of Hebrews, Chapter 6, Verse 19.

President of The Boys' Brigade

Rev Leslie Griffiths, Baron Griffiths of Burry Port

Former president of Methodist conference and former superintendent of Wesley's chapel.

Our Patron

Our Patron is: Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

With Love, faith and fellowship from

Thomas Cowie with full support of , agreement with and on behalf of

Jacqui Hicks, Lynn Rainer, Fran Blackburn, John and Eileen Liddinson



Chislehurst Methodist Church

Christmas Tree Festival

*Come and see the wonderful
display of Christmas trees*

**OPEN EVERY DAY
SAT 1st – 8th DECEMBER**

MORE DETAILS SOON



Contact:

Sharon - 07757717399

Jenny - jenni.alabi@gmail.com

THE MESSY CHURCH TEAM NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

We continue to provide our fun, craft filled Messy Church sessions each month with the help of our wonderful volunteers.

Our aim for the next few months is to gather more families into the sessions (and hopefully the church).

We are now aiming the sessions at families with younger children (under 8's). **Could you help?**

Spread the word!

Even just handing leaflets out to friends, family, neighbours could make a HUGE difference!

We would love to gather a group of volunteers to hand leaflets outside the local schools.

Help with the sessions

Do you have a skill or an idea that you could share? (Cooking, knitting, practical or scientific experiment or even a story with a craft relevant to the theme)

Our busiest time is between 4 and 5 PM, this is the craft and activity session where we need helpers to "man" tables and talk to the families

If you are feeling a bit crafty – we always welcome helpers to prepare crafts or even do some cutting out!

Our next sessions (between 4 and 6 PM)

Saturday 15th September: Harvest

Saturday 13th October: Daniel and the Lions

Saturday 10th November: Jonah

Saturday 8th December: Christmas

Please don't hesitate to contact one of the team,

Best Wishes

The Messy Church Team

**SERVICES AT CHISLEHURST METHODIST CHURCH
STARTING AT 1030AM
PREACHERS**

Sunday 2 nd 0930	Holy Communion Rev'd Duncan MacBean no 1030 service
Sunday 9 th September	Mr John Sennett
Sunday 16 th September	Rev'd Duncan MacBean
Sunday 23 rd September	Deacon Maureen Spinks All Age Harvest Service
Sunday 30 th September	Mrs Joan Mayes
Sunday 7 th October	Church Anniversary Holy Communion Rev'd Geoffrey Fletcher
Sunday 14 th October	Mrs Julie Gardner
Sunday 21 st October	Mrs Sue Cope
Sunday 28 th October	Rev'd Terry Wright
Sunday 4 th November	Holy Communion Rev'd Duncan MacBean
Sunday 11 th November	Mr Chris Price
Sunday 18 th November	All Age Service Worship Leaders
Sunday 25 th November	Deacon Maureen Spinks

Midweek Services

A short informal 30 minute service is held in the Wesley Room at 12.45 on the First and Third Thursdays in the month, followed by a light lunch. All are welcome

Chislehurst Methodist Church
Prince Imperial Road
Chislehurst
Kent
BR7 5LX
chislehurstmch@gmail.com
020 8468 7695

www.chislehurstmethodistchurch.org.uk