

CONTACT



CHISLEHURST METHODIST CHURCH

Autumn 2017

www.chislehurstmethodistchurch.org.uk

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Front Cover: The supper at Emmaus by Ceri Richards
 From the Methodist *Collection of Modern Art (Reproduced with permission)*

Contact is available on our website, where the photos are in colour.

The next issue of Contact will be published in Advent

LET THE LIGHT SHINE

I'm not a great one for quoting scripture, but Luke 12:3 has been on my mind for a while: "Therefore whatever you have said in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have whispered behind closed doors will be proclaimed from the housetops."

There is much about the abuse of the internet that causes great hurt in the world, but I think there is something about it (that we might be missing) that is very good. Courtesy of the internet, it has become almost impossible to hide your transgressions. Lives today are lived digitally to such an extent that there is a plethora of information available at the touch of a button. Statements can be checked almost instantly, figures researched, and hidden history exposed.

We are seeing this to a significant extent with the Trump White House. He has been caught out again and again in blatant lies, corroborated by digital evidence. All the things he tried to hide during his campaign (and his previous life) are being revealed. Details about his grubby behaviour are being broadcast on national TV. Similar things are happening in this country and in most countries around the world. It is becoming ever more difficult to hide dark deeds.

I view this as being something to celebrate, because it results in a more transparent society. Money, power and privilege are no longer guarantees of privacy, especially where illegality or gross immorality is concerned. I am not in favour of the devious techniques employed by some newspapers (such as phone-tapping) but I do like the fact that things can be discovered, however hard people try to hide them.

The scripture from Luke is a warning for us to be careful about what we do and say, since the scripture says that we should be willing to have broadcast from the rooftops, the things that happen 'in the dark'.

A transparent Church is an honest Church. It is a Church which tries to express love, forgiveness and acceptance, even when it is difficult. I believe that honesty and integrity are at the heart of our worship of God. We cannot be true to God unless we are true to ourselves and others. And it is truth that God desires from us - not false emotions or protestations of love, but an honest offering of self. This is also, surely, the least we can offer to one another (in love).

I'm not keen on the picture of heaven as being a place where the fullness of your life is displayed for all to see before forgiveness is granted. I'm mainly not keen on this because I am all too aware of my sins, both past and present, and I have no desire for these to become public knowledge. Whether this happens or not is actually irrelevant, because we are already in the position where we are 'fully known' by God, in thought, word, deed and neglect. So nothing is hidden.

The answer to this dilemma is not to try to hide things better, but to cease to need to hide things. When it's dark, we should speak and act as though it's in full light, and all are listening. Like the Carpenter might say: think twice and speak once.

Shalom,
Duncan

CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

Our Church Anniversary service is on Sunday 1st October at 1030. The preacher is Rev'd Nigel Cowgill, the London District Chair.

The London District of the Methodist Church serves to enable and champion the work of Circuits and Churches in the Greater London area. In a collaborative structure, currently with two Chairs, Revd Nigel Cowgill and Revd Michaela Youngson, working together with a team of paid and voluntary officers to support and develop the life of the District. The team serves all registered Methodist Churches in London, and many more people who are involved in our work and worship.



The London District of the Methodist Church currently comprises some 18,000 members, 234 ministers, 233 churches and 35 circuits and their projects together with a number of educational institutions. We are a diverse group of people originating from many different countries and communities who find ourselves worshipping and witnessing together in urban, suburban and rural areas. We have come together in the belief that we are better together and our intention is to contribute to the well-being of each other, of this global city and the surrounding areas and of the wider Methodist Church.

COFFEE MORNING for MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

You can be part of this national event once again on the last Friday of the month: **Friday 29th**

September in the Church from **10 a.m. until**

noon. The purpose of the event 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? 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.

WE ARE
MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT



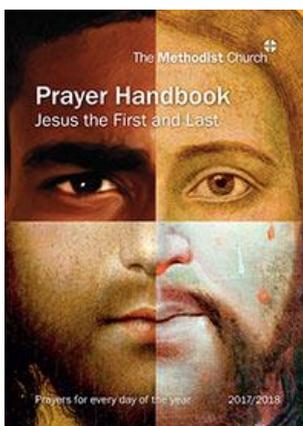
All of this needs people to make it work – could you help serve coffee or cake, staff a sales table, circulate with a couple of guessing games etc? And it needs people to come. There will be lots of similar events around Chislehurst but you and your friends will come to this one, won't you? Posters and invitation cards for distribution will

appear in due course and there will be more information in the weekly notices, or from me anytime.

Gillian Beecher Bryant (020 8467 6906)

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.

ANYWHERE'S AND SOMEWHERE'S

Earlier this year David Goodhart produced a book with the title 'The Road to Somewhere: the Populist Revolt and the Future of Politics.' This looked at the increasing divisions in western societies and the rise of the new popular movements. We have seen this in this country on issues like the European Union referendum and in the USA with the rise of Donald Trump. And these divisions have not followed the usual party political lines. They cross party boundaries with divisions here within both the Conservative and the Labour Parties and their leaderships on how best to take Brexit forward.

David Goodhart argues that the big divisions now are between one group of people he calls the 'Anywheres' and another group he calls the 'Somewheres'. The Anywheres are used to and welcome the new global and open world we live in. They are outward looking and include many younger people and people who enjoy the cultural and economic openness of the west. The Somewheres by contrast have their identities rooted in a particular place and they value the family, authority and nationality. The Somewheres in this country would tend to favour Brexit and in the USA would support Donald Trump. The Anywheres would tend to be 'remainers' in this country and opposed to Donald Trump in the USA. And it is the Somewheres who have felt left behind but who in recent years have gained in strength to the surprise of the Anywheres.

David Goodhart does not come down in favour of one group or the other but makes a plea for each group to show greater respect for and understanding of the position of the other group. That seems to me an important message at a time of greater uncertainty and deeper divisions in this country than for many years. And I have no doubt that within our own church community in Chislehurst we have both Anywheres and Somewheres with equally strongly held views.

But I think there is another message which is important for us as Christians. It is that is that we need to embrace the best of both the Somewhere and Anywhere thinking. We all belong 'somewhere'. We all have strong roots in our families, in our faith and church, in our neighbourhoods, and in our work and our leisure activities. Those roots are essential. They make us who we are and give us strength especially in difficult and challenging times. But at the same time we must beware of being tied down by our roots. So we also need to embrace 'anywhere' thinking and look outwards to what is going on around us in the world and in society and mix with and learn from others with very different perspectives from ourselves.

The same is true of the church. If we look back to Jesus he had his roots in the Jewish faith but made a point of mixing with people outside the faith and of proclaiming a radical message which upset many of the 'insiders' in the then faith establishment like the Pharisees. And his disciples and especially Paul followed that

up going 'anywhere' to proclaim the Christian faith as have countless others over the following centuries. The churches mission today is, of course, to carry on that work in ways which will have an impact in today's society and to follow Jesus's example of working in the world for peace, justice and mercy.

Over the last 2000 years all churches, including the Methodist Church, have developed their own interpretations, doctrines, forms of organisation and ways of worshipping and working. Like any organisation we need these but should always be ready to challenge them. Unless we are careful they can become ends rather than the means of carrying out our mission and they can leave us tied down and out of touch with today's society. For example, on gender issues our society has moved on a long way from the words of Paul almost two thousand years ago on the position of women or from even earlier writings from the Old Testament about sexuality.

So as individual Christians and as a Church we should be 'somewhere' and rooted in our faith in familiar territory with familiar people. That helps us to build up our strength as Christians. But we also need to be open to what is going on in the world about us. And we need to be 'anywhere' in today's uncertain and divided world seeking to convey love and strength and to build a better world of peace, mercy and justice.

Roger Dawe

DOOR AND BOOK STEWARDS

We are in need of new people to be Door and Book Stewards. Some of our people have been doing a great job for many years but for health reasons are unable to continue in this role.

It is very important to welcome folk as they come into Church. If you would like to know more or could help on Sundays please get in touch with me.

Val Bessant 020 8467 1625

HIGHLAND CLEARANCES

We love a hike in the Scottish Wilds as a family, the wide open vista's, dramatic mountains, tumbling waterfalls, red deer, eagles, rain and even the infamous Scottish Midge. It is easy to soak in the stunning scenes unfolding around, being awe struck at the sheer beauty and scale of what is the last great wilderness in western Europe. It would be equally easy to take for granted how empty it is of human influence and how unspoiled it is. This however it hides a hidden and tragic past.

From the latter half of the 18th and well into the 19th century there was a horrific series of events, known as The Clearances. Large parts of Scotland had been forfeited to those loyal to British Crown (following the Jacobite uprisings which died out in 1746), the benefactors were largely English Nobles. During this period, the clan system, clan chiefs, the Gaelic language, the wearing of tartan and plaid, even to sing and dance in large numbers was all made illegal by the Crown.

All of this is just a foot note in the true horror of what was enforced on the highland and Gaelic speaking peoples of Scotland, they were villainised and many popular figures and politicians of the time considered them as sub race, they were portrayed as rough, ignorant, uncultured, superstitious celts and an attitude that still has an impact to this day.

The horror of the clearances was wide spread eviction of the people off the land. This was driven by a form of acceptable racism and by profit, as it was more profitable to turn the land into sheep farms than to allow tenant farmers. These clearances where enforced in the name of the crown on behalf of the local nobles by the British army, known in Scotland as the infamous Red Coats.

The clearances themselves were bloody and barbaric, people were evicted, houses were burned empty or not to prevent return, no matter the weather or season, families were thrown out to the wilds with nothing, often this was done in the middle of the night. Resistance brought death, as it was a seditious act to disobey the



orders of King George's Troops. Hundreds of thousands of people were forced from the land that had been theirs for generations. The United Nations has since recorded this as ethnic cleansing. Those who survived escaped to the big cities, such as Glasgow or managed to get passage to the new world. Glasgow probably has more people descended from those Gaels than any other place.



But there is healing, the Scottish parliament is passing new laws to protect those who still live in these areas, to give them rights that small landowners, tenants farmers in England take for granted, but the most remarkable events are those in Sutherland, where the worst atrocities were inflicted. A new phase of British history is unfolding in Sutherland, as land still owned by the family of the man blamed for the concept of the Highland Clearances is to be sold to descendants of those he evicted.

A community group has secured all of the funding it needs to buy 3,000 acres of crofting townships near Helmsdale on the far north-east of Scotland. It is seen as a significant development for an area which still lives with the legacy of the decision by the infamous Duke of Sutherland two centuries ago to remove his tenants to make more money from sheep farming. This is not something that will happen everywhere and is largely a symbolic buy back, but it will heal many old wounds.

We are lucky, that Queen Victoria became a friend of Scotland and her love of the highlands encouraged the cancellation of many of the laws designed to eradicate the culture of the Gaels, sparking an ongoing bond with Scotland that remains with our monarchy today. This was in part stirred by the many romantic Scottish authors at the time; the most notable was Sir Walter Scott. No matter how horrific it was, today we are left with the beauty and spectacle of the Highlands, and there is no better monument to the people who were sacrificed to make it that way.

Thomas Cowie



Clearances memorial in Helmsdale Sutherland, Scotland.

40 YEARS A PREACHER - A CALLING –

BUT WHEN DID IT ORIGINATE?

Was it whilst a teenager in a Leicestershire village?

Was it in Scranton – USA?

Was it during furlough in England?

Was it in Salisbury, Rhodesia (now Harare, Zimbabwe)?

Back to my schooldays – With a multitude of village chapels, some parts of the Methodist Church, then as now, found it difficult to occupy all pulpits with fully fledged Local Preachers. One solution was to equip people with a complete service, published by church headquarters.

Our minister identified two groups of teenagers, requesting each group go to a village chapel to take a service. Easy! With hymns chosen, prayers prepared and even a written sermon, everything just needed to be read – no problem.

Not so easy, I was to discover. Three of us were to go to Rearsby. My role was to read the sermon. I read it at home and my heart sank – I didn't understand what the words were trying to communicate. I didn't have the confidence, to amend the text, or to abandon it and try to write something myself. –So to the day, standing in a pulpit, reading words which to me didn't make much sense, even though, by then, my father had tried to explain.

Now, long ago, that unnerving experience is remembered and I can still visualise a lady who throughout the 'sermon' sat with her head turned away from the pulpit as if gazing at the wall, which I found off-putting. (Years later, on recounting this experience, I learned it was her normal posture during the sermon.)

At the end of the service, I declared to myself – never again!

It didn't occurred to me, the minister might have an ulterior motive. That was until he asked whether any of us would consider becoming Local Preachers. He must have seen potential, but I stuck to my resolve – it was not something I wanted to do. He was disappointed. Much to my surprise, my best friend Norma, did respond and pursued the Local Preacher's course, alongside school exams and later teacher training college.

In the intervening years much transpired. Norma married David a friend of my late husband Richard. They went to the United States where David was appointed to serve with the United Methodist Church, Board of Global Ministries, and later was ordained a minister of that church.

A few months after bidding them farewell as they sailed from Southampton to New York, we were back in Southampton, boarding The Vaal for our voyage Cape Town and thereafter journey by train to Salisbury. Richard had been appointed by the Methodist Missionary Society to the post of Accountant of the Methodist Church in Rhodesia.

Some sixteen months later, in Rhodesia, tragedy struck, a motoring accident claimed the lives of members of my family, leaving me a widow with a four year old daughter.

I remained in the country, became a missionary in my own right and some two years later took furlough (home leave). Before coming to England, I travelled to the USA to stay with David and Norma. What an insight into life of the Methodist church in the States.

And what a shock when David told me that alongside speaking engagements, he had arranged for me to preach at a Sunday morning service.

I protested, I declared I wasn't a local preacher, I didn't have appropriate qualifications. None of this washed – I was a missionary and according to him all missionaries can preach!

Maybe in the USA but not so in the UK. Continuing protestation got me nowhere, I had been attending church since infancy, had heard hundreds of sermons, surely the task was not so difficult. (David was a person, never short of words).

I ended up in his study, surrounded by books and papers, with the lectionary (Bible readings) for the week, and left to it whilst he went hospital visiting.

So as a complete novice, on the appointed Sunday morning, I stood in a pulpit, facing a packed church. With trembling limbs and shaky voice, I managed to 'get through' the ordeal.

Food for thought – Was God trying to say something to me?

Next stop England and deputation. No sermons to preach, but plenty of speaking engagements, which by comparison was easy. But there were other unexpected experiences – church people – ministers and lay, sharing a range of issues and relationship problems within their work. I concluded that for the people concerned this was therapeutic. I was a person who was here today, gone tomorrow, someone outside the situation, yet a church worker, who had “gone through it – so to speak.” They could speak in a way not possible to people within their environment.

More food for thought. What was God saying to me?

Back in Rhodesia, continuing to think about my experiences, I decided the least I could do, was to follow a course of study, lest something similar happen again.

The then Local Preacher's study course of Old Testament, New Testament and Christian Doctrine, I felt would provide me with a useful foundation. There was a plentiful supply of mentors right on my doorstep – missionaries, who were ministers or local preachers.

At this stage it was not my intention to become a Local Preacher. I had a seven year old daughter, who throughout the week went to another missionary family after school until I returned from work at the Methodist Church Headquarters, so I felt it was inappropriate to leave her in the care of others on Sundays too.

The course I followed was the same as that being studied by Local Preachers on trial in this country. Gradually, I worked my way through the text books, and took the exams. An optional extra was a Worship and Preaching course along with Wesley's sermons, which I also completed.

I suppose it was inevitable that after following the written course, my minister, Revd Fred Rea challenged me to become a LP. Still unconvinced, I decided to give it a try.

Thus it was that my third outing as a novice local preacher, became my trial service, which I passed, meaning I crossed another milestone, without any real conviction.

Then came my downfall. The Oral – In Rhodesia at that time, the candidate stood in front of the Local Preacher's meeting – a packed room of European and African ministers and preachers. You could be asked about anything from the whole course.

All I can tell you was that the first question was something concerning Amos. I froze – I thought I knew the answer but couldn't get it out. In my mind's eye I could see a massive black leather bound book, Holy Bible imprinted in gold on the cover, which was firmly shut.

It was as if I was struck dumb. No matter what the question, even though I ought to have known the answer, the words wouldn't come.

That Bible stayed closed. Clearly – I had failed.

Maybe this was indication that it was not in God's plan for me

Speaking to me afterwards, a comforting Supernumerary told me he thought the questions were too hard, more suitable for someone candidating for the ministry.

My next furlough was coming up, so there was time to think through the “What do I do now? Am I called to be a Local Preacher or not?”

I hadn't decided but knew that if I was to continue, I would have to face the dreaded oral again.

During furlough, I did take the precaution of revising and confess, I also did something you are advised to not do. I asked God for a sign, in that if I was called to be a LP I would get through the oral, but if that was not the right way for me, - again, I would be unable to answer the questions.

Upon return to Rhodesia, December 1975 LP meeting loomed. This time a different question master. What a difference – the questions were answered easily. I felt sorry for another would be LP though, who was being questioned at the same time, because he was struggling almost as much as I had the first time around.

Having been able to respond to questions, I accepted it as a sign that God wanted me to be a Local Preacher. Thus at the Quarterly Meeting January 1976, I was recognised as a fully accredited Local Preacher.

This is not the normal route into Local Preaching. Generally speaking, people feel they are “called” and during their training their call is tested. But sometimes God uses different methods to achieve his goal.

It is demanding, but it is also fulfilling and rewarding as well as humbling to be called to serve God in this role.

Joan Mayes



Aminata honoured at Copper Box finals

It is great to see one of our members honoured and so below we reproduce an article from the Panathlon Challenge in July

Aminata Kalokoh, an eight-year-old girl from Sierra Leone who suffers from severe physical and communication problems, has won Panathlon's Wembley National Stadium Trust 2017 'Outstanding Achievement' award.

Aminata was presented with her award at the Panathlon London and South East Primary Finals at the Copper Box Arena at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park on Tuesday.

Aminata was brought to live in Bromley by her cousin Evelyn in 2014 after Evelyn visited Sierra Leone and found her socially excluded because she had malaria, and living in a state of deprivation. Her mother had left when she was two, unable to cope with her condition, and her father died soon afterwards.

Then aged four, Aminata had never received any schooling and could not communicate verbally. Since her cousin successfully applied for a settlement visa to bring her to the UK, Aminata has been diagnosed with Global Delay Development and Dystonia. She also has an unidentified neurological condition with developmental delay, semi-purposive movements and poor balancing skills. She communicates via an iPad, sign language and gestures.



Aminata now attends Marjorie McClure School in Bromley and, despite her many difficulties, has discovered a love of sport. Through school sport activities and Panathlon's primary and swimming competitions, she has made incredible progress and her self-confidence has soared.

Michael Newby, Aminata's teacher at Marjorie McClure, said: "Panathlon has helped her progress in many ways. She has been



able to be part of a team, and try activities that she's never experienced before. We put her forward for the award because she is always willing to try new things and she has such passion and enthusiasm. Those are very much Panathlon values."

Aminata's adoptive father, Ian Maclean, added: "I am so proud. She has really enjoyed it today. She's a happy, bubbly girl. She loves Panathlon and really comes alive when she is playing sport."

The Marjorie McClure team finished seventh in their London heat at the Copper Box, and Aminata and her team-mates were cheered on by Thomas Clemence. Now 28, he is an ex-pupil at the school who himself competed in Panathlon events 15 years ago. He has cerebral palsy but has not let it hinder his progress as a coach. As well as qualifying to FA Level 2 standard, he now trains disabled pupils at his former school for Panathlon competitions.

"Panathlon opened up sport to me in a whole new way and now I am doing my little bit to enable them to get just as much out of it as I did," he said.

CHURCH PEW

One of our old church pews, which was sold at the time of the refurbishment in 2010 is available. No charge but the new owner will need to pay for shipping or collect it from Linlithgow, West Lothian, Scotland, near Edinburgh.

If you are interested, please contact the church office.

CIRCUIT NEWS

Farewell to Juliet. Juliet has served in our Circuit for five years, centred on Emmanuel church Sidcup and Petts Wood church. She now moves on to Staines and Feltham circuit.

Pastoral Responsibility for Petts Wood. Rev Alex has kindly agreed to add Petts Wood to her pastoral responsibilities for the Connexional year 2017-2018. We are very grateful to her and to Bromley Common and Mottingham members who will see a little less of her!

Maureen Spinks. Our deacon arrives early in September. There will be a welcome service for her later that month - please look out for notices of the date, time and location. Maureen is married to Ian who is severely disabled. This necessitates extensive structural changes to the manse at Petts Wood which may delay things somewhat. Building works commence there on August the 1st. Maureen will need some time to settle in and to orientate herself, before starting work in earnest.

'Meeting You'. So far David Gillman and your circuit stewards have visited six of our churches for discussions on your plans for the next year or so. We have been received most warmly. We are very grateful to all those who have taken part. There is copious evidence of enthusiasm, commitment, prayer and good intentions. We are looking forward to receiving summary action plans from each church at the Circuit Meeting on September 14th. We, the visiting team, are heartened by the evidence of real progress in all of our churches. Where to Lord? The visits of the 'Meeting You' initiative are providing us with some action points for the Circuit as a whole. As soon as the last two meetings have taken place we shall prepare a summary paper which will be freely circulated before the Circuit Meeting.

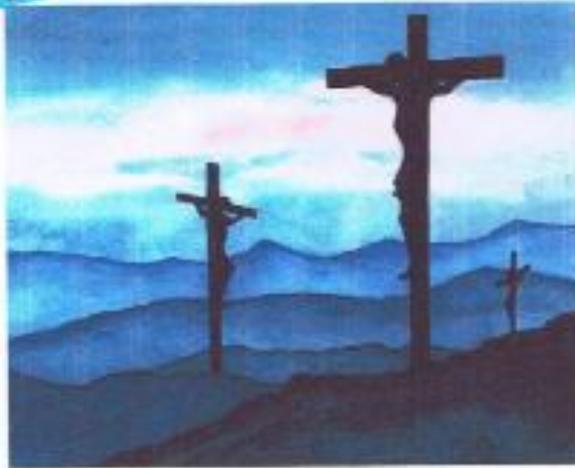
Shape, Strengthen, Sustain. This is the title of a circuit gathering to take place on Saturday morning of October 14th at Chislehurst church. It will be a time of reflection, prayer and discussion. The aim is to review the goals of each of our churches and of the circuit as a whole, thank God for our progress so far, and to ask His guidance over the next twelve months. We shall hear from Maureen about her work programme. We shall end with a short service of Holy Communion. We hope to see large numbers from each of our churches. Please book the date.

Our Ministerial Team. David Gillman and Alex Terrett move in August 2018. Happily Duncan MacBean will be taking on the role of Superintendent of the circuit. The Circuit Strategy group has given a lot of thought to how we should proceed in the light of the fact that it is highly unlikely that we shall be given two replacement Ministers, due to poor levels of recruitment nationally. Discussions are taking place in the Circuit leadership team and with the District Chairman. We have come up with an exciting alternative plan which we hope to be able to confirm at the Circuit Meeting. We are confident that God is directing us to new and fruitful paths which will help us all to grow our witness in every part of our Circuit.

Lastly. Our period of service as Circuit Stewards will come to an end in September next year. We hope that our successors will be appointed at the February Circuit Meeting so that we can work in parallel for some months so as to effect a seamless hand over. Please pray that suitable people come forward to undertake these jobs which are busy but hugely rewarding.
Many blessings to you all.

Marianne Outteridge and Roger May

THE BEST OF THEY ALSO KNEW JESUS



**A SERIES OF MONOLOGUES & DUOLOGUES
WRITTEN AND SET TO MUSIC BY
TONY WRIGHT**

**with LIGHTING BY MICHAEL CHUTER
and SOUND BY GRAHAM BUNCE**

**PRESENTED BY THE CONGREGATION &
FRIENDS**

**OF NEW ELTHAM METHODIST CHURCH ON
SUNDAY 15TH OCTOBER 2017**

AT

6.00 pm

THE QUESTIONS CHARLIE ASKS

One story has so far dominated the British, and ultimately the global, media during the summer months – the tragic tale of baby Charlie Gard. As ever, this story raises more questions than it answers, but by the same token it directs our attention to some important issues.

First, *how is the story framed?* Is it being told as a simple human tragedy, in which case we are all encouraged to feel sympathy with Charlie and his parents? Or does it follow the current trend of inviting us to pass moral judgements on people and voice public condemnation? Is it depicted in political terms as a power struggle between establishment authority and individual parents' rights? Is it represented as an ethical issue in which values carry different weights for different observers: the absolute value of life versus the relief of suffering, for example? Or is it a story of legal judgements in terms of the rights of children and of parents? Is it one, some, or all of these things, or lots more as well?

Next, we might ask *in whose interests is the story being told?* Papers may seize upon a continuing human interest drama which is guaranteed to maintain sales. They may also have a political interest in framing it in populist versus establishment terms. Social media have been used by Charlie's parents and their supporters to exercise public pressure to achieve their desired outcomes. Subsequently, social media have become a blank sheet for people to announce their critical attitudes to the protagonists to anyone in the world who might be interested. Politicians such as Trump have sought to use the story to seek to boost their image, while religious leaders have, for some reason, found it more important to offer prayers and help to Charlie than to those whom they are appointed to serve.

These questions force us to recognise that Charlie's tragedy is mediated rather than directly experienced by the rest of us. It has been told to us in forms which reflect the purposes and the power of those who control or influence the media. But that does not mean that it is merely a way of occupying our attention, or stirring our emotions, or enlisting our support, or offering us a spectacle of parental grief and anger. Rather, it can raise some vital issues, for our late-modern times. For example:

How are we to define what it means to be alive? Is this purely a matter of heart working or brain firing, or is there a criterion of quality of human life?

What value should we attach to being alive, so defined?

To what uses should medical technology (and technology in general) be put?

How should we prioritise technological research and development projects?

By what criteria should we allocate medical resources?

Who are the “we” in these questions? Citizens? Christians? Pressure groups?

And that’s just for starters!

Peter Herriot

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Our Harvest Festival is on Sunday 24th September. After which you will get a chance to see the entries into our Photography Competition 2017.

HARVEST GIFTS:

This year our harvest gifts will again be divided between the Bromley Borough Foodbank and the Manna Society.

The foodbank is part of a network of over 250 across the country. It aims to help to feed families in crisis in this borough using food donated by local people.

The Manna Society is a charity operating a day centre near London Bridge for homeless people. The services include the provision of breakfast and a hot lunch, hot showers, housing and welfare advice and a clothing store. Like the foodbank, the society operates using food donated by the public. The most welcome items common to both organisations are listed below.

Sugar

Powdered milk

Tomatoes (tinned)

Vegetables (tinned)

Pasta sauces

Breakfast cereals

Rice

Meat (tinned)

Please bring your donated items to the Harvest service on Sunday 24th September or before that they can be placed in the harvest goods box in the church or in the foodbank box in the Courtyard.

LIVING WITH DEMENTIA - TIPS

Lighting

Lighting should be even, with no gloomy corners and no glare. Natural light is good for mood, but darkness in the bedroom at night is important for sleep, which in turn is beneficial for mood, alertness and a sense of wellbeing.

Fabrics

Swirling patterns may cause queasiness. Spots can appear to move. Patterns of flowers and leaves may be mistaken for the real thing, and large flowers near windows may be misconstrued as faces.

Colour

Opt for contrasting colours where possible. Add texture to create interest and use fabrics that contrast with the carpet for bedding and upholstery.

Contrast

Different-coloured piping on the edges of seats, bedspreads and curtains will make them easier to spot.

Flooring

Avoid mats, trip hazards or colour changes that could look like a step. Anything shiny can appear like water and may cause confusion.

Wallcoverings

For those with dementia, it's a continual battle to make sense of things. Avoid cluttering a room with pattern — whether on walls, floors or upholstery. "A painting in jarring colours could be upsetting," says Angela Paterson, marketing director of Tektura Wallcoverings, which supplies hospitals, hotels and care homes. "Better to go for familiar, reassuring scenes. Mirrors can also be disturbing. They could be repositioned or have a little curtain."

General tips

- Declutter — everything should be meaningful.
- Keep windows clean. Close the curtains at night to avoid reflections on the glass and to indicate that it is night-time. It might be worth putting a curtain over the front door to deter night-time excursions.
- Cushions with bits sewn on that can be fiddled with are a positive distraction.
- Keep a list of contact numbers, with photographs, by the telephone.
- Fit sockets and switches in a different colour from the wall.
- Always keep keys and glasses in the same place.
- Label drawers and cupboards with bright pictures of what's inside, or with cards or Post-it notes.
- Do the same with doors.
- Ensure water temperature is not scalding hot.
- Keep household cleaners in a locked cabinet.

Kitchen

- Keep surfaces clutter-free.
- Use plain plates with coloured mats for contrast. Apply the same concept to food: mashed potato and cauliflower cheese won't stand out on white plates.
- Invest in gadgets such as clamps, to keep jars steady, and timers for cooking.
- Get see-through cupboard doors — or remove them completely.

Bedroom

- Position the bed with a view of the toilet.
- Consider motion sensors fitted to the bed or wall.
- Remove the locks from internal doors.
- Avoid making significant changes in somebody's home if they have lived there for a long time. They may be delighted, but wake up and not know where they are.

Bathroom

- Put colourful stickers on a white basin.
- Get a bright, easy-to-see toilet seat.
- Use non-slip mats and a shower or bath seat, and install grab rails.



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

BOYS BRIGADE FUNDRAISING PROJECT

With my link to the sporting world of Lacrosse it has come to my attention that all recreational sports clubs should have access to a defibrillator. This was decided after a young man in his 20's was hit with a ball and it stopped his heart. He was lucky that it was at a national championship and there was a first aid team on hand with a defibrillator; he recovered.

It occurred to me that defibrillators should be available at all public places not just sports clubs (there is one in Sainsbury's) and now that portable ones are available, that talk you through how to handle them and they have long lasting rechargeable batteries, they are not something that only ER units have. With many people passing through the doors of our church, a sudden cardiac arrest can happen regardless of age or fitness and owning one of these could potentially be a life saver in the future.

I suggested to the officers of our BB Company that we make raising funds to purchase a defibrillator for the church a priority and they all agreed. We have offered the idea of our project to Duncan who agrees that it is a good idea. We aim to have fundraising events both in and out of the church, and you will be invited to come and enjoy these whilst helping us to raise money towards this very worthwhile project. More details in the near future.

Thank you for your continued support.

Jacqui Hicks

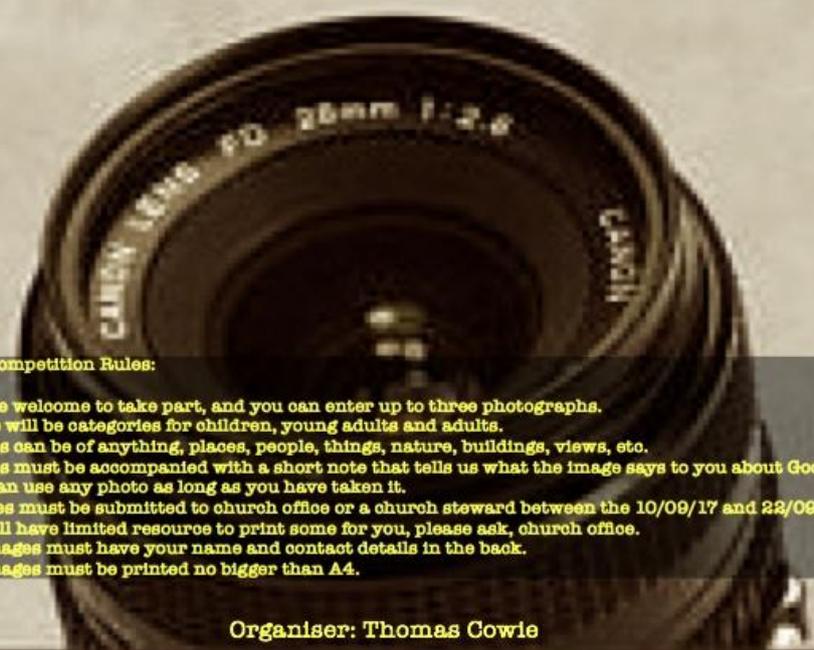
Sample image of a fully automatic defibrillator; below



PHOTO COMPETITION calling all budding photographers, why not look for the perfect photo over the summer and enter it in our photo competition. More details on the enclosed flyer. The competition is for photos which describe to you God's Work.

Perhaps use a favourite picture or have some fun over the summer taking some photos and then share them with us at the competition. The entries will need to be accompanied by a statement on how the photo describes God's Work to you.

Deadline for entries is 22nd September.



Photography Competition

On the 24th of September 2017
We will be having a photography display and competition.
At Chislehurst Methodist Church, following the service.

This will be between 11:30 and 13:00
Judging at 12:30

There will be a bring and share tea
(please bring sweet or savoury snacks to share)

The theme for the competition is God's world

Photo competition Rules:

- 1 All are welcome to take part, and you can enter up to three photographs.
- 2 There will be categories for children, young adults and adults.
- 3 Photos can be of anything, places, people, things, nature, buildings, views, etc.
- 4 Photos must be accompanied with a short note that tells us what the image says to you about God's world.
- 5 You can use any photo as long as you have taken it.
- 6 Entries must be submitted to church office or a church steward between the 10/09/17 and 22/09/17.
- 7 We will have limited resources to print some for you, please ask, church office.
- 8 All images must have your name and contact details in the back.
- 9 All images must be printed no bigger than A4.

Organiser: Thomas Cowie

SERIOUSLY SICILY

It's a long time since I took an organised touring holiday, but there's no doubt that as an introduction to a new part of the world it's hard to beat. So when some old friends suggested we should visit somewhere new to us all, SAGA's tour looked perfect. A four-centre holiday taking in some of Sicily's key towns, lots of interesting included tours, a chauffeured car to the airport - we were sold and, I have to say, were not disappointed in our choice.

We quickly discovered that Sicily is the largest island in the Mediterranean and, from the earliest inhabitants in the Neolithic period, it has been settled or ruled by a vast number of invaders, including the Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans, Arabs, Normans, Austrians and Spanish, before finally becoming part of Italy courtesy of Garibaldi. Each have left their mark on the island's rich and fascinating history, some of which is still being uncovered whenever there is cash for a further archaeological dig.

Our first stop was in Noto, a lovely little town rebuilt following a major earthquake in 1693. It was our introduction to the type of limestone used throughout the island which weathers to soft shades of creamy pink and peach and is a perfect material for the many beautiful Baroque buildings. Noto is close to the provincial capital of Ragusa, which, in addition to the impressive Basilica and Cathedral, has more recently found fame as the setting for the television series 'Inspector Montalbano'. We duly assembled outside the police station where we were reliably informed that, only the day before, we might have seen our hero bounding up the steps into the building in front of the cameras. Would we like to have our picture taken (for a small fee) inside where Inspector M holds court? Thankfully no. My friends, while fans, are not that committed. But wait, isn't that him driving a van.....serving drinks in a café..... passing on a scooter? It seems that most of the men of a certain age in Ragusa look exactly like

Three days later we were in Sicily's capital, Palermo. The building of the small museum, which was bombed during World War 2, has been beautifully restored around three courtyards, with much cool white marble, subtle but effective lighting and a focus on effective display. Fortunately, its treasures survived the destruction. They include bas reliefs from an impressively extensive temple complex in Selinunte, which sadly was not included in our itinerary.

An abiding memory of Palermo is the heat, which seems to be so much more oppressive in the city than in smaller towns. We wandered down a very narrow side street and found a quiet, shady café to take lunch. Our rest was soon disturbed, however, by a small party of street musicians setting up almost beside our table. 'Oh no' groaned someone 'they've got a boom box!' Muttered discussions followed

on the feasibility of shifting to another table without making it too obvious. An impossibility, of course, and this, coupled with indecision, meant that we stayed exactly where we were – and were serenaded by a delightful tenor (who looked remarkably like) singing traditional Sicilian songs. The whole street, including our small party, applauded.

The jewel of this part of Sicily, a few miles outside Palermo, lies in the small town of Monreale which has a truly magnificent, majestic Duomo. Inside, the most gorgeous mosaics, many in gold leaf, cover almost all the 6430 sq.m. of wall. Mosaics of Saints, Angels, Apostles and the Madonna and Child culminate in a gigantic figure of Christ conferring a blessing. Beside the Duomo are the marvellous cloisters of the Convent of Benedettino with evidence of Arab, Greek and Provençal workmanship.

A busy few days were spent visiting Catania, a city once destroyed by an eruption of Etna and rebuilt on the solid lava, the fascinating small towns of Cefalu, Mazara del Vallo and hilltop Enna, traditional wineries and salt flats dotted with windmills. We were introduced to Sicilian delicacies such as arancini (I think that's correct – apologies to any experts in Sicilian cuisine), chocolate which does not melt (except in the mouth) Marsala and Griffo wines which do not stay long in the glass, wonderful cherries, almonds, pistachios

Finally, on to our last stop, Giardini Naxos. This is a small coastal holiday resort at the foot of a cliff on which is built one of Sicily's most famous towns, Taormina. Its famous Greek theatre looks out across a view of the coastline and blue sea which the Sicilians claim is one of the most beautiful in the world, an opinion which seems to have been shared by notables from Oscar Wilde to Cary Grant.

Before departing for the airport we had a final view of Taormina from the sea. Our delightful, knowledgeable 'tour manager' had arranged a little Mediterranean voyage. The wonderful coastal scenery was set off by Sicilian music, some traditional small cakes, the chance to take a dip in the Med (which no-one took up) and copious Cava (which everyone took up). Then on to Catania chaos and the last Marks and Spencer bacon butties for sale on our British Airways flight. If you are sitting in a seat further back, tough. Travel is such a lottery, isn't it.

Gillian Johnson



Chislehurst Methodist Church

Christmas Tree Festival

*Come and see the wonderful
display of Christmas trees*

OPEN EVERY DAY

SAT 25th NOVEMBER TO SAT 2nd DECEMBER

MORE DETAILS SOON

MESSY CHURCH

Messy Church meets at Chislehurst Methodist Church on Saturdays once a month 4 – 6pm.

Make a note of the next Messy Church dates:
Come and join us for craft, singing and a story.

Meet new friends and most importantly have fun!

We will finish with a family tea for all!

For further information please email
messychurchbr7@yahoo.co.uk
or call the church office on 020 8468 7695



Entrance is FREE but please donate to enable us to continue running Messy Church. Donations go directly into funding the craft activities and food. Suggested donation £1.50 per child.

DATES FOR 2017

14 October

11 November

9 December

AND 2018

13th January

10th February

17th March

21st April

12th May

16th June

14th July

FULL TIMETABLE AND MORE DETAILS ARE ON OUR WEBSITE

SERVICES AT CHISLEHURST METHODIST CHURCH

STARTING AT 1030AM

PREACHERS

Sunday 10 th September	All Age Service Rev'd Duncan MacBean
Sunday 17 th September	Mrs Joan Mayes
Sunday 24 th September	Mrs Sue Cope, with Rev'd June Hurn
Sunday 1 st October	Church Anniversary Holy Communion Rev'd Duncan MacBean with Rev'd Nigel Cowgill
Sunday 8 th October	Mr John Sennett
Sunday 15 th October	All Age Service with Boys Brigade promises Rev'd Duncan MacBean
Sunday 22 nd October	Mr Chris Price
Sunday 29 th October	Mr Ralph Brandhorst
Sunday 5 th November	Holy Communion Rev'd Duncan MacBean
Sunday 12 th November	Deacon Maureen Spinks
Sunday 19 th November	All Age Service with Baptism Rev'd Duncan MacBean
Sunday 26 th November	Mrs Heather Williams

Midweek Services

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