

CONTACT



CHISLEHURST METHODIST CHURCH

Autumn 2016

www.chislehurstmethodistchurch.org.uk

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Front Cover From the St. George Memorial plaque behind the lectern. *Photo by Thomas Cowie*

The next issue of Contact will be published in Advent

TRUMPED!

There's always a danger in writing an article well ahead of the fact and that is that things may well change by the time of publication. As I write this, last week Hillary Clinton accepted the nomination to be the Democratic candidate for President of the United States of America. Much is being made of this in the USA, as they are definitely late to the party in having a female leader. It's not just 'about time' that this happened, it's well overdue. In this simple (but significant act) the Democratic party has trumped Trump's hate filled rhetoric.

Yet we face many of these same issues in the church. In Methodism, we may be ahead of the game in our inclusion of women in key posts within the church (the Catholic church still has to acknowledge that you don't need a penis to be a priest), but we're not perfect in this. Each '-ism' we are forced to face, whether sexism, racism or whatever else, raises the issue of another area of inequality which needs to be addressed. It's tiring work dealing with prejudice after prejudice, but it is work that has to be done.

Despite what some fundamentalists may claim, the Genesis story of creation does not give men dominion over women by virtue of primary creation. Men and women are created equal by God - different, but equal. After all, God is neither male nor female, but both and more.

Our real problem lies not just in expressing our belief in the intrinsic value and equality of women, but overcoming systemic paternalism in our society. More than this, I believe that because the church itself has, for centuries if not millennia, been entrenching this idea that women are subject to and have less worth than men, we have to work harder than others to express our support for the equality of women in all spheres of life. We need to pay for the complicit guilt of our forebears in reversing all too prevalent norms regarding gender equality. As members of a complicit institution with a history of sexual (and racial) oppression, we have to be at the forefront of the drive for change, both in the world and the church. We don't carry the guilt, but we do carry the burden of correction.

We may look at the USA and shake our heads, saying that we got there first with a female Prime Minister nearly 40 years ago (indeed, so have Pakistan, Argentina and many other countries) but this does not mean that we are over the hump of this particular issue. There is much more work to be done and, every time this issue of gender equality is swept under the carpet, it allows historical systemic paternalism to take hold again. It is a battle for God's kingdom - a recognition that the world is at its best when men and women apply their (different but equal) wills to resolving issues. This recognition gives credence to our God who is neither male nor female, but both and more; in whose image we are all fearfully and wonderfully made. Keep fighting, speak out, be intolerant of injustice because therein lies the realisation of the kingdom of God.

You might be interested in listening to a song called "Fight song" by Rachel Platten, a version of which was used at the Democratic convention. Some of the lyrics are as follows:

*Like a small boat
On the ocean
Sending big waves
Into motion
Like how a single word
Can make a heart open
I might only have one match
But I can make an explosion*

*And all those things I didn't say
Wrecking balls inside my brain
I will scream them loud tonight
Can you hear my voice this time?*

*This is my fight song
Take back my life song
Prove I'm alright song
My power's turned on
Starting right now I'll be strong
I'll play my fight song
And I don't really care if nobody else believes
'Cause I've still got a lot of fight left in me*

*Losing friends and I'm chasing sleep
Everybody's worried about me
In too deep
Say I'm in too deep (in too deep)
And it's been two years
I miss my home
But there's a fire burning in my bones
Still believe
Yeah, I still believe*

*And all those things I didn't say
Wrecking balls inside my brain
I will scream them loud tonight
Can you hear my voice this time?*

*This is my fight song
Take back my life song
Prove I'm alright song
My power's turned on
Starting right now I'll be strong
I'll play my fight song
And I don't really care if nobody else believes
'Cause I've still got a lot of fight left in me*

A lot of fight left in me

*Like a small boat
On the ocean
Sending big waves
Into motion
Like how a single word
Can make a heart open
I might only have one match
But I can make an explosion*

*This is my fight song (Hey!)
Take back my life song (Hey!)
Prove I'm alright song (Hey!)
My power's turned on
Starting right now I'll be strong (I'll be strong)
I'll play my fight song
And I don't really care if nobody else believes
'Cause I've still got a lot of fight left in me*

No I've still got a lot of fight left in me

Shalom,
Duncan

A tree needs leaves for photosynthesis to provide daily energy for its existence and the names in the foliage are the names of current youngsters in Junior Church.

So, for Adrienne and all of Junior Church with love and thanks from all of us, a slightly altered quotation:

“Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, Blessings all yours, with ten thousand beside!”

CHURCH HALL ROOF

The hall now has a new roof. The fascias and guttering will be finished next week. This is the first new roof since the hall was built 51 years ago. The photo below (left) gives an indication of just how bowed the old roof had become and was leaking from time to time. We have had the work done and now we need to pay for it. Watch this space for fundraising events and appeals.



FURY

That familiar little green bug-eyed Martian lands in Britain. He's always doing it, but hey, let's give him a warm welcome all the same. After all, he's not a European. This time he alights on the paper skip in Bromley tip. He notices the headlines on the discarded newspapers, and becomes deeply concerned. These poor earthlings, he muses. They spend all their time at emotional boiling point. Look at these headlines – 'fury' at this, 'outrage' at that, 'warfare' on the other. Why, they even declare war on litter. And he scampers post haste out of the skip in case they decide to 'exterminate' it there and then.

Our public use of language has upped the emotional ante. The former Chancellor George Osborne could have said that he aimed to bring the budget deficit down to a manageable figure. However, he felt, doubtless correctly, that this would not convince a sceptical electorate. But he didn't 'promise' to bring it down, he didn't even 'vow' to reduce it to zero. Unwilling to go so far as to 'swear a solemn oath on the Bible and my mother's ashes', the only way left of convincing a sceptical electorate was to pass a law stating that after 2020 the national account would not be permitted to go into deficit (except in emergencies!). So even the most extreme language wouldn't persuade, realised Osborne. It had lost its force through over-use.

But does all this matter? After all, "sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me". Oh yes they will, we should have told our grandmas, for we use the forms of language with which we are familiar to help us construct our narratives about ourselves and our view of the world. If our experience and use of our language is full of binary opposites such as skivers vs strivers, or women vs men, or Brits vs foreigners, or, more generally, us vs them, then so will be our social world – a social if not a military battleground (oops, there I go again).

Before the 2015 election, the Anglican bishops begged for the campaigns to be conducted in a less divisive way. "It is vital", they wrote, "to find better ways of talking about many fundamental questions facing us today". And again, the parties need to "be offering the electorate a grown up debate about Britain's place in the world order...." Did the politicians and the press listen? You bet they didn't. "Church gives a pulpit to political prejudices", complained the Telegraph. "Preaching politics as the pews empty" moaned the Mail. "Bishops blunder" thundered the Times. "When I heard the Bishops' comments about alienation and dwindling relevance, I thought they were talking about the Church of England congregations" remarked Iain Duncan Smith.

And as for the referendum campaign and its continuing aftermath.....! The 2016 Annual Conference of the Methodist Church urged that "All bear the responsibility of speaking and acting for healing, reconciliation, and mutual respect". Some hopes, we may respond. I'm certainly not advocating a theocracy in this piece, but seldom has the nation been more in need of the Kingdom of God. Bishops, after all, are

citizens like the rest of us. They and we have every right to demand a political and public discourse which unites and respects rather than divides and insults.

Peter Herriot

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

You can be part of this national event once again on **Friday 30th September** in the Church from 10 a.m. until noon. It seems very late in the year but it is always on that last Friday in September. The focus of the event is for people to enjoy coffee/tea with cake in pleasant surroundings and to raise money for this excellent cause. We charge no entrance fee and there are no fixed

WE ARE
MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT



costs for refreshments, just your donations. We will need lots of lovely cake and yummy biscuits to enjoy with the coffee etc – bought or home-made are equally welcome. Can you help here? There will be things to buy: maybe a plant or two, a few crafted items perhaps, some preserves etc., plus a couple of quizzes/competition features. All of this needs *people* to make it work – might you be willing and able to serve coffee, or cake, or quiz sheets, or man a sales table? And it needs people to come of course. There will be lots of similar events around Chislehurst but you will come to this one, won't you? Not that it is any sort of competition. Posters and invitation cards for distribution in due course and information in the weekly notices as the weeks go by, or from me anytime.

Gillian Beecher Bryant (020 8467 6906)

GIFT AID – REVENUE GIVES MONEY BACK!!

For decades, Eddie Battarbee has been the Gift Aid Secretary for the church but has now decided to hand over that role and I - Gillian Beecher Bryant - have agreed to take it on. Sincere thanks must go to Eddie for his meticulous record keeping – OK, it's his profession, but he is very good at it. He has finished his long period of office by submitting a claim for repayment of more than £11,000 for the fiscal year ended 5th April 2016.

The Gift Aid Secretary uses detailed records compiled every week by a band of largely unsung members of the church community: Barbara Herriot marries up people to envelope numbers; a rota of tellers open the envelopes, count and note amounts against listed numbers and count the loose cash. They also bank the money in all sorts of weathers, the closure of HSBC this year being an added complication. Overseeing all these strands is our Treasurer, Joan Mayes: thanks to all those who keep the unromantic but vital money wheels turning.

You possibly know more about Gift Aid than I do, but here are a few bullet points which may be of interest.

The weekly envelopes, currently green, are not just for Gift Aiders. They are a useful reminder to anyone to put in some ££ for the Collection, a commitment if you like; it does not have to be the same amount each week. If you would like to join the envelope scheme, please speak to Barbara Herriot.

If you pay enough Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax, **and have signed the Church's Gift Aid Declaration**, the tax paid on what you put in that numbered envelope can be reclaimed. For example, for every £100 you give over a year, the Church will ask the Revenue for £25

please, the current rate of income tax being 20%. The amount you give doesn't matter as long as you have paid enough tax in the first place. **However, it is up to you to do that arithmetic**, also taking into account Gift Aided donations made, or to be made, to other charities during the fiscal year. Your circumstances may change, tax rates may change and you should let me know if you no longer pay tax so that we don't try to get back what hasn't been paid in the first place. As well as weekly giving, Church Anniversary Gifts where names match Declarations can also be claimed for.

You can give regularly to the Church by Standing Order if you prefer – several people do and as long as we have the signed Declaration, we can claim on that too.

If you don't currently do Gift Aid but would like to, do get in touch with me so that we can do the simple paperwork - one side of one sheet.

In addition to the signed-up Gift Aiders and that reclaimed tax, a couple of years ago the Revenue said that cash donations i.e. loose cash in the collection bags and other donated money such as donations for coffee each week could also be treated as Gift Aided even if the donors are not tax payers. Without any



signatures (but again, detailed records) every £100 we receive in such miscellaneous cash (not cheques) becomes £125. So even if you don't Gift Aid, every £1 you offer becomes £1.25 which is good to know. There is a generous upper limit on what can be claimed against this aspect of Gift Aid, but we needn't worry about that – yet.

If you move house, please let me know so that I can give you a new form

If you have signed a Declaration but for whatever reason no longer pay tax, please tell me.

Please be assured of the strictest confidentiality; almost no-one knows who gives what.

Do get in touch with me if you think I can tell you anything useful.

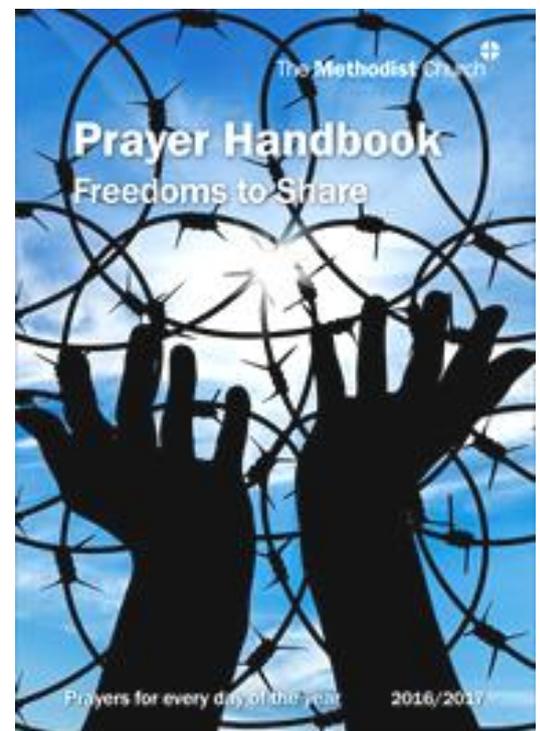
If I do this job as long as Eddie has, I will be well over 100 when I hand it on.....

Gillian Beecher Bryant (020 8467 6906)

METHODIST PRAYER HANDBOOK

The Handbook for the year starting on 1 September has arrived and is on the piano. Please do take a copy for your household.

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



THOMAS COWIE'S DAY JOB

Some of you may know I work for Network Rail. Network Rail is the state owned company that controls Great Britain's railway infrastructure. Network Rail owns almost everything apart from the trains. Network Rail's role is to ensure trains can run safely and reliably as well as creating growth for the future. I am, by profession, a civil engineer specialising in geotechnical engineering. I have worked for Network Rail for around 10 years and most of my time has been in the major projects areas. However lately I have moved within the business to a more operational role; which supports more the daily business of allowing trains to run safely and to timetable.

My current role supports civil and buildings assets, i.e. stations, bridges, tunnels, embankments, drainage, etc. We carry out the day to day repairs, maintenance and renewals of these sorts of assets. My team also provide the emergency response to many engineering emergencies or urgent issues relating to these assets. Typical weeks will involve small repairs to embankments, repairing bridges when trucks have crashed into them. For example this truck stuck under a bridge in Shortlands. My team liaised with the police and emergency services, and ensured the truck could be moved safely and the bridge opened to trains again.



Another recent example would be the famous sinkhole at Forest Hill which shut a major London rail route in July. This was in fact a part collapsed Thames Water Sewer. My team and myself rushed to site, liaised with other parts of the railway and Thames Water to develop a solution that would allow us to open the railway as soon as possible; and safely. This was a 6ft diameter main foul sewer for the Forest Hill and Sydenham area. The Victorian brickwork had given way on the side of the sewer. This was approximately 25ft below the railway, and the ground under the track had collapsed into the sewer and then was being washed away, creating a bell shaped crater under the track.

We agreed overnight (*Ed: Thomas didn't see his bed that night*) a temporary repair to drop around 20 tonnes of concrete into the hole to create a rough arch above the sewer.



We then backfilled the hole with around 25 tonnes of railway ballast and opened the line on a lower speed, while we monitored the track and the sewer for over a week, to ensure our solution had worked. Working with Thames Water we then agreed to assist them in installing a new liner throughout the sewer to stabilise it permanently.

Thomas Cowie

WORKING AT WHITECHAPEL MISSION PARTS 3 & 4

Remember parts 1& 2 of working at Whitechapel Mission?
(*Contact Easter 2015*)

I became involved in Petts Wood Methodist Church Breakfast Challenge a few years ago. The church send a team of 4 people, one of them a driver, to Whitechapel for the 6am start making breakfast, serving from 8am to 10.30am and then clearing up. We were always joined by community service people who had avoided jail for their crimes, but their duties as well as washing up, included sorting bags of donated clothes into gender and size and cleaning the showers and toilets.

We would cook 9 kilos of sausages; 9 kilos of bacon and 360 eggs. 60 tins of baked beans, the same of tomatoes and mushrooms would be heated through and 6 loaves of bread are toasted and buttered and 6 loaves buttered plain. Cereals and porridge are available too.

Mobile phones are charged up.

The clients are usually sleepy or drunk, grateful, sometimes shy of asking for anything, young men and some women. It is always difficult to guess the age of a homeless person as they just look old and have poor teeth (unless they are Caribbean, Jamaican or African....who always have strong white teeth). The cost of breakfast is minimal; 10p for an egg ! 70p for a large breakfast, 50p for a smaller one without bacon. Beans on toast is free if you are new, hungry and without money. Payment keeps homeless people in the real world and they can use WCM address for their benefits and bulk buy their meals so that they don't have to carry cash. Sometimes men bring white papers which entitles them to a free breakfast from the Government.... These are ex-soldiers living in a hostel nearby. People are often cheered up by David from Nigeria who spends all his allowance on meals for those without money. I often ask where a person is from especially if they look so young to me.



As the weeks go by things change but because my visits are infrequent I notice the difference. The faces become surlier, voices deepen and rights and I find out they are coming now from North West of our island. I have a 'discussion' about whether or not we have any honey to put on the porridge.... He is adamant there must be some somewhere and I am not looking properly. WCM is the only place on earth that a homeless person is given any choice and I must respect that they will exercise it. So if a man wants 5 of the blue coloured razors then he shall have 5. (But never 2 days running....is he selling them on?)

The trouble is that this week there are no razors left. Dear Readers if you think you will give disposable razor blades as a harvest gift please don't buy the very cheapest yellow ones.... Apparently they do not cut Russian stubble or any other country's for that matter.

My visit this month was certainly different....given that it was hot weather. People were scratching; everyone was quietened by the heat. And David has gone home to Nigeria we think and hope.

"Why is no-one showering?" I ask.... "And why are we in the sinks washing up?"

"It's like this... the community service people have become picky as to their jobs," comes the reply. "They won't go in the wash up, they won't clean the showers, in fact they won't do the tasks we ask of them.

They want to take their break together and if they are in a team (ie. Not individuals) they think they can make their own breakfast and not just eat the sausages we cook for the men....they now create havoc and sometimes upset the clients.

So we don't have community service people now and the showers have to be shut on Saturday's and Sunday's."

But it is not all doom and gloom and stories of ingratitude alongside the idea that a crime's punishment should be avoided if possible. I always see the face of God in this kitchen.....



For a few months there had been a Polish builder cooking in the kitchen. He turned up week after week to help out because once he was on the other side of the counter.



The ex-soldiers living nearby arrived in time to wash up.... Oh boy did they know how to work! 'See a job and do it' must be an army motto (along with 'if it moves salute it but if it doesn't move paint it').

At Christmas a small Methodist church of 9 members had a 'bake-in' to send 488 mince pies and 4 Christmas cakes a record number they try to break each year.

I look at the notice board to see who is doing the Breakfast Challenge tomorrow (Sunday)

And it is the staff from Selfridges.

The number of people willing to take up *The Breakfast Challenge* is depleting and the others aging. Sharon Michaelides is now the organiser and is worried that she cannot fill the rotas for us to keep up a church presence twice per month.

So it is to become a circuit wide challenge or a family challenge if you have teenage children. If you would like to help then please get in touch with Sharon through Anthony who will pass your number on to her.



THE FUTURE OF THE ORPINGTON AND CHISLEHURST CIRCUIT

The Orpington and Chislehurst Methodist Circuit is at a place in its existence where it is unlikely to ever look the same as this again. There are many factors that affect the shape of the ministry in a Circuit, some of which are beyond the control of the managing trustees (the Circuit meeting), such as social shifts and economic factors. What is going to have a huge influence on the future of our Circuit is the reality that we are very unlikely to be able to retain a staffing of 4 Presbyters. There are too many places without Ministers after each season of stationing for us to receive the (relative) luxury of 4 Presbyters (Ministers) for an 8-Church Circuit.

In the light of the prevailing pressures on stationing, the Circuit meeting has elected to change their strategy in this regard. They will apply for a Deacon to be stationed in the Circuit from September 2017, after Rev Juliet leaves.

The role of a Deacon is significantly different to that of a Presbyter in the sense that they do not engage in the 'administrative' side of church life. They do not normally chair Church Council meetings, nor do not normally have pastoral care of a church, such as a Presbyter would do. The role of the Deacon is to (re-)establish links between the church and its surrounding community.

If you want the theological difference between the work of a Presbyter (me) and a Deacon (e.g. my wife, Laura) it is that Presbyters are called to **Word and Sacrament**, while Deacons are called to **Word and Service**. Both are Ministers, but the role of each within the life of the church is different. More information on the role of Methodist Deacons is available at www.methodistdiaconalorder.org.uk.

It is hoped that the stationing of a Deacon in the Circuit will galvanise some of the existing work in the churches as well as ushering in some new, complimentary expressions of 'life in community'.

Following this potential stationing, both Rev. David and Rev. Alex will be leaving the circuit from August 2018. This will mean that we will be applying for 2 Presbyteral appointments to begin in September 2018, one of which may be for a Superintendent Minister.

It is inevitable that the current allocation of churches to each Minister will change, since the Deacon will not be appointed to any particular church, but will work across the circuit on specific projects. I hope, however, to retain my current allocation (Chislehurst and New Eltham) in order to provide continuity.

The future O&C Circuit is clearly not going to look the same as it does now, nor will it necessarily function in the same way as it does now. But, rather than fearing the worst, I would suggest that this is a rare opportunity for our reinvention as a Circuit.

We have an opportunity to shed some of the ways of being 'church' that has done us no favours in the past, and to engage differently with those who need the gospel

message of Jesus. He, after all, is the very reason for our existence! So, join me to go onward and upward with eager hearts, into uncharted territory with our guide, who is also our goal.*

Shalom,
Duncan

*If you have been affected by any of the issues mentioned in this article, please speak to your Minister.

CHISLEHURST MOCKTAIL EVENING

Christian Aid week this year got off to a fantastic start at Chislehurst Methodist Church.

The church was converted into a swish bar for a Mocktail Evening. In case you haven't worked it out, Mocktails are cocktails without alcohol. The Mocktails were served from a gazebo decorated with fairy lights and erected under the gallery, and accompanied by tasty refreshments and waitress service. The event was publicised through the local Churches Together and also the Chislehurst Business community, resulting in a most enjoyable evening. As befits an event to launch Christian Aid week, Kathy Childress, from the charity gave a presentation about the charity and Christian Aid Week. And Christian Aid week received a £400 boost.

Well done Paul and Rachael Baird for organising this evening, and to Sue Cope for the refreshments.



ACTION FOR CHILDREN

Many thanks to everyone at Chislehurst Methodist Church who contributed for Action for Children Sunday in July. Together, Methodist churches raise over £50,000 each year for Action for Children. Since 2010 we at Chislehurst have collected an amazing **£8,600**, mainly through carol singing, boosted last year by the Cowie family's super Bake off and including donations on Action for Children Sundays.

In 2014/15 Action for Children made life better for 300,000 people: children, young people, their parents and carers in the following ways:



- **Fostering:** Action for Children run a fostering service that's rewarding for carers, children and young people alike
- **Adoption:** Action for Children's adoption service helps the 6000 children who are looking for adoptive parents
- **Support for families:** All families need support at some point and Action for Children's centres help families turn things around in difficult times with practical and emotional support
- **Schools:** Action for Children's schools offer a secure developing environment for pupils with the most profound and challenging needs
 - **Support for young people:** Action for Children work with young people to help them get into education, training and employment
 - **Support for disabled children and young people:** Action for Children help disabled children, young people and their families live the lives they choose
 - **Support for children in care:** Action for Children support children in care and leaving care, helping them thrive when they can't live with their parents
 - **Policy and research:** Action for Children campaign for change and make sure vulnerable children and young people are a priority for policy makers
 - **Services for professionals:** Action for Children is the go-to charity for delivering children's services



- **Access to records service:** Action for Children give help and advice about adoption, fostering, care, genealogy and closed project records

Your support is very much appreciated. Grateful thanks for the donations of course but also for all the time, talent and enthusiasm that people have so generously given over the years. Some for many, many, many years...! We have had some fun. I have asked Lucy, our contact at Action for Children to endeavour to secure Saturday, 17th December for us to carol sing at Bond Street this year. We would love you to join us.

Christine Pott



Here are a few pictures of our carol singing at Bond Street in recent years.



'ALL WE CAN'

When a natural disaster, such as an earthquake occurs, readers will be familiar with what happens. The media arrive and for a brief time focus all their resources on to reporting the crisis. International politicians make all sorts of promises of help, but once the cameras leave little or nothing is heard or seen about the local people as they try to rebuild their lives. We should thank God that organisations such as Medecins sans Frontieres ("first in last out") and All We Can exist and are able to provide effective support. The latter's 2014-15 Report explains, "We are not limited to short term grants or are constrained by bureaucracy, so we can effectively respond where the need is greatest."

Like Practical Action, All We Can works with and through local agencies. Pastor Siboniyu the coordinator in Burundi, writes, "All We Can is different. The way it is doing it is good. They don't come and say "Do this, or do that" - but ask, "What would you like to do if you had the means?" It's different. "

All We Can's budget for 2014-5 was approximately £3,060,000. It was spent in three main ways. In supporting local partners that share it's vision and values. Secondly in responding to humanitarian crises and in helping people to be better able to cope in future. Thirdly to engage in advocacy and education, both in Britain and internationally, to tackle some of the systemic causes of poverty. Overseas development took almost £1,600,000 of its income compared with only £530,184 on humanitarian aid. It was involved with 27 long term development schemes in eleven countries. These figures reflect how All We Can sees its mission, which is to support and strengthen local partners – organisations, churches and emerging initiatives that share it's vision and values and to implement effective and sustainable solutions for people living in some of the poorest and less served communities in the world.

In 2014-5 it gave particular help to Uganda and Haiti. Through it's new initiative, "Church CAN (Church Community Action for Neighbours). The Methodist Church in Haiti has a history of working in education, health and community development. In 2010 the massive earthquake created major damage to physical structures, but also highlighted the need for improved institutional management and greater sustainability. In cooperation with an American church organisation All We Can established a Health Board. A strategic plan was created, staff were trained and the board members helped to decide on priorities. All We Can also supported the position of a Health Board Coordinator, a pharmaceutical store and its manager, mobile clinics and mobile dentistry kits. The outcome has been dramatic: 11 circuit health committees were established (being Methodists there had to be committees) approximately 10,000 patients were treated plus a further 600 in additional mobile clinics in the community.

Benedict Male, Director for Voluntary Action for Development, Uganda had this to say, "The partnership with All We Can has given us a very good was forward, openness, transparency and a very good example of how we can develop together. Our relationship depends on friendship, not fear. We discuss where things work. We

agree.” In the past year 25 shallow wells and 38 rainwater jars were constructed. The result has been access to safe and clean water for over 6000 people. This autumn All We Can is using Harvest Festival services in the UK to focus on issues concerning water supply and sewage treatment.

John Sennett

CHISLEHURST SOCIETY 'BOTTOMLESS' COFFEE MORNINGS

every Wednesday 9.45 to 11.45.

Come for a chat, maybe a quiz or a game.

April's Kitchen provides the delicious home make cakes and volunteers provide the friendly atmosphere.

Come and make new friends in the new community centre at The Old Chapel, Queens Passage just off Chislehurst High Street (behind Go Travel).

£2 for adults and no charge for children. We have accessible toilets and facilities for nappy changing.

We look forward to seeing you soon.



THE BOYS' BRIGADE



The times I get asked when someone sees my Boys Brigade (BB) badge “I did not think it was still going”, are many. The answer is “Yes”, it is not as big as it was 100 years ago, but it is still going in this country and across the world; in Africa, Singapore, Australia, New Zealand and there are 2 BBs in the USA.

The Boys' Brigade was started 133 years ago, on 4th October 1883 by William Alexander Smith, who after 25 years of running it was knighted to become Sir William Smith.



Smith started it because he was a Sunday School teacher in Woodside Mission in Glasgow and discipline was a problem. So, as a Territorial Army officer, he used the discipline of the army for the boys in Glasgow. Drill was a main feature. It was so popular that it soon grew and by 1888 Glasgow had 93 companies, Edinburgh 17 and there were 65 other companies spread around Scotland.

1888 also saw Boys' Brigade spread south into England, Wales and as far as Jersey.

The 5th London was one of those companies. It was at the Lession Mission in City Road, which closed some years ago and the company moved down the road to Wesley's Chapel, It is still running today. The Minister at the Mission, The Rev'd Lord Leslie Griffiths, is the (13th) Boys' Brigade President.

London District held a display at the Royal Albert Hall for many, many years giving shows on a Friday evening and Saturday afternoon and evening. The chief guests were well known people and included royalty. At one such display the chief guest was Baden Powell. After the display he and William Smith discussed using Baden Powell's experience with Scouts. In his military career “BP” as he became known wrote a booklet entitled “Scouting for Boys”. In 1907 BP took boys from 1st Bournemouth and 1st Poole Companies along with boys from a public school to camp on Brownsea Island where scouting was started (that's another story for a Scout to tell).



The BB uniform has changes with the times. It started as a leather belt and buckle, haversack and pill box hat. Today it is a shirt, pullover and black trousers. Hats have gone.

The Boys Brigade motto is “Sure and Steadfast”. In previous times it was “Sure and Stedfast”, without the “a” as that is how the word was used in earlier versions of the Bible (Hebrews Ch 6 v 19).

The BB motto:

The advancement of Christ's Kingdom among boys and the promotion of habits of reverence, discipline, self-respect and all that tends towards true Christian manliness.

Today, compared to the first 25 years, our numbers are very much lower, but of late are looking up as new companies are opening and churches are again looking to us for leaders in youth work.

Camping still plays a big part in BB. Our Bromley Battalion has a site on the Isle of Wight and our Company along with others from Bromley visited this summer.

If anyone is interested in seeing the book of BB history 1883 to 1983, I would be pleased to show them. It is 300 pages of close print, together with photos, including the 1933 parade in Queen's Park with 17 Battalions and a pipe band of 637.

And another showing Hampden Park Football Ground with audience attendance of 130,000.

Our Company, the 11th Bromley, has been meeting at this Church for 60 years. Prior to that I am told it was known as the 4th Chislehurst.

We meet on Tuesdays:

5.30 – 6.30 Anchor Section (5 – 8 Years)

5.30 – 7.00 Junior Section (8-11 Years)

6.00 – 8.00 Company Section (11 – 15 years)

We always welcome boys to come and join us.

Similarly, if anyone has a hobby or anything which might interest the boys, please do contact us as your help would be most welcome.

John Lidinson
11th Bromley Boys' Brigade



METHODIST CONFERENCE

The Methodist Conference is the governing body of the Methodist Church in the UK. Each year a new President and Vice-President are appointed. This year's office holders are Rev'd Dr Roger Walton and Rachel Lampard

Rev'd Dr Roger Walton - President of the Conference 2016/2017

Growing up in Pudsey, West Yorkshire, Roger Walton started attending a Methodist Sunday School at the age of seven. He became a Christian at 16, becoming a local preacher at 18 and offering for ministry whilst at university.

Married to Marion and with two children and three grandchildren, Roger has served in circuits in the West Midlands, Liverpool and St Albans. For ten years he was the Director of the Open Learning Centre, followed by eleven years of the Wesley Study Centre. He is currently Chair of the West Yorkshire District.

"Becoming President of the Conference is a wonderful gift and I am deeply honoured," said Roger. "I owe so much to the Methodist people and have learned the way of Jesus in this Church. I hope to encourage us to continue to be a learning, loving and outward-looking community for transformation of the world."

Rachel Lampard - Vice-President of the Conference 2016/2017

Rachel Lampard is the daughter of a Methodist minister and her early memories are of sitting at the manse kitchen table, discussing religion and politics. These twin passions have continued throughout her life. Growing up in London in the 1980s, she was deeply affected by increasing homelessness. On leaving university she found work with housing charities, including Catholic Housing Aid Society leading their policy and campaign work.

Rachel began working for the Methodist Church in 2000 and in 2008 became Team Leader of Joint Public Issues Team, a collaboration of four denominations, including the Methodist Church, campaigning and speaking out on issues of poverty, climate change and peace.

Rachel says, "Methodists care about God's world. I'm excited by how Methodists, inspired by God, get stuck in and have such a passion for justice."

In 2006 Rachel was appointed as a Commissioner with the Gambling Commission, responsible for regulating the gambling industry. She focused particularly on protecting children and vulnerable people. She was awarded an MBE for her efforts in this year's Queen's Birthday Honours List.

Rachel is married to Steve and they have three children.

HARVEST LUNCH
SUNDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER
AT 12.15PM

SIGN-UP SHEET ON THE PIANO OR SEE THE OFFICE

MENU

STARTERS

Butternut squash & red pepper soup with French bread or salmon pâté with toast, to be chosen as you book.

MAIN COURSE

Roast beef and Yorkshire pudding and gravy, mustard and horseradish sauce

children's lunches.....sausages

Vegetarian alternative: salmon and asparagus quiche and salad

All with roast potatoes; new potatoes; green beans and carrots

PUDDING

Dorset apple cake or blackberry and apple crumble and custard.

Tea or Coffee to finish

Payment is by donation:

donations in excess of £7 per adult is the going rate with Children 11 and under £2.

**The new roof is on the Church Hall -
now we've got to pay for it!**

HARVEST
Lunch

Chislehurst Methodist Church

Bake off!



How do you fancy being the next Mary Berry or Paul Hollywood?
Then come along on Sunday 6th November at 11.45 am **prompt** and let the judging commence!

£2.50 per adult, children free! Your ticket gets you a cup of tea or coffee and your scorecard. 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 inform the Church office **no later than Tuesday 1st November**. £2.50 per adult entry and free for children. Good luck!

For more information or to get your tickets in advance please telephone the Church office on 020 8468 7695.

All proceeds go to  **action for children**



Chislehurst Methodist Church

Christmas Tree Festival

*Come and see the wonderful
display of Christmas trees*

OPEN EVERY DAY

SAT 26th NOVEMBER TO SAT 3rd DECEMBER

Sat 26th

refreshment

Festival Fun Day

12noon Tree Festival opens

Christmas Fair, with stalls, activities, lunches and

2pm Chislehurst Festival of Dance (*Timings provisional*)

2.00 Michelle Sidwell Academy of Dance

2.30 Quick Steps Academy

3.00 Dartford and Bexley Baby Ballet

3.30 Michelle Sidwell Academy of Dance

Sun 27th

Mon 28th

Mon 28th – Fri 2nd

Sat 3rd

12noon - 4pm Tree Festival open

8pm Popchoir sing amongst the trees. **FREE ADMISSION**

10am - 4pm Tree Festival open

10am - 4pm Tree Festival open

FREE ADMISSION

For further details see www.chislehurstmethodistchurch.org.uk or call 020 8468
7695 Prince Imperial Road, Chislehurst BR7 5LX

SERVICES AT CHISLEHURST METHODIST CHURCH

STARTING AT 1030AM

PREACHERS

Sunday 4 th September	Holy Communion Rev'd Duncan MacBean
Sunday 11 th September	Mrs Heather Williams
Sunday 18 th September	All Age Service
Harvest Festival	Rev'd Duncan MacBean
Sunday 25 th September	Mr Chris Price
<i>Sunday 25th at 1600</i>	<i>Circuit Service of Celebration</i>
Sunday 2 nd October	Holy Communion Rev'd Duncan MacBean
Sunday 9 th October	Mr John Sennett
Sunday 16 th October	All Age Service Rev'd Duncan MacBean
Sunday 23 rd October	Mr David Gloin
Sunday 30 th October	Mrs Pat Woodison
Sunday 6 th November	Holy Communion Rev'd Duncan MacBean
Sunday 13 th November	Mrs Joan Mayes
Remembrance Sunday	
Sunday 20 th November	All Age Service Rev'd Alexandra Terrett
Sunday 27 th November	Mrs Susan Cope
Advent Sunday	

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