

CONTACT



CHISLEHURST METHODIST CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 2012

www.chislehurstmethodistchurch.org.uk

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WEEKLY SERVICES

Every Sunday 10.30 Usual pattern:

1st Sunday - Holy Communion

3rd Sunday - All Age/Parade

Every Thursday 12.45 Informal Mid-Week Service (of about 30 minutes)
followed by sandwich lunch

SAVING PARADISE

I made a new discovery when we were on holiday in our caravan at Seasalter. I can read and knit at the same time! Each evening after gazing on the beautiful orange, pink, and purple sunsets over the Swale, we would return to the caravan and I would prop my ipad on my knee and click away with the knitting needles the ipad only needing a tap with a needle to turn the page. Marvellous – modern technology and old traditions working alongside!

On my ipad I was reading the 2012 Greenbelt Christian Arts Festival book club recommendation 'Dark Eden' by Chris Beckett. In the story a man and a woman from planet Earth (Tom and Angela) were left behind on planet Eden following a space crash. The story is taken up 156 years later. By this time there are about 500 rather inbred descendants eking out a primitive existence on Eden, worshipping the mementoes from Tom and Angela's time, and keeping the faith that one day they will be rescued and return to the imagined paradise of planet Earth. The story's hero, John, dares to question their blind idolatry but in so doing the unity of the 500 descendants is destroyed. The book is ideal holiday reading...an entertaining read but raising many interesting theological questions. Is truth the ultimate virtue or do we sometimes sacrifice truth for the sake of unity?



The question of truth versus unity is one which must have challenged Rowan Williams throughout his tenure as Archbishop of Canterbury. And what about Pussy Riot in Russia? The Russian Orthodox Church, having been virtually annihilated during the communist years, is determined that will not happen again. Therefore the Church has allied itself with Putin in order that its new found power and position will be guaranteed. The position and power of the church has taken precedence over issues of oppression, injustice and freedom of expression, and it has been left to a group of brave women in balaclavas to speak out on behalf of the voiceless.

This year the theme of the annual Greenbelt Christian Arts Festival held at the end of August was 'Saving Paradise'. A group of well known theologians were asked to give a talk exploring this theme at an event at All Hallows Church, London Wall in May. Rose Hudson-Wilkin, Chaplain to the House of Commons, said:

'A paradise that fails to include everyone is definitely lost. A paradise found is a joyous place where we discover the long-lost brothers and sisters from other places, who we can connect with, who we can love, who we can share the joys of being in paradise together with.'

We have sought to give expression to our own understanding of our church in our Vision statement:

The Vision of Chislehurst Methodist Church
Journeying with God

We believe that God's love is inclusive. Therefore, we are a church which welcomes and affirms all God's people in their rich diversity.

We are a people seeking to be nurtured in our journeying with God, through worship, spirituality and the creative arts, and at the same time to offer that vision of life to others.

Our discipleship as followers of Jesus inspires us to pursue justice and peace for everyone, to serve others and to live a sustainable life for the sake of the integrity of God's creation.

We seek to offer our sacred space to the community. We have transformed a private place of worship into a public sacred space. We continue to explore what this means.

...and this could be summarised as, '**...to live like Jesus, to love like Jesus**'.

To return to the image of knitting...I have been knitting busily these last few months with the birth of my first grandchild expected in the middle of September. Click, click...click, click...go the knitting needles. I drop in on our Wednesday knitting club and see the diversity of the group represented in the creative knitting taking place with wool of all hues, older wool and newer wool, knitting for babies, hats for adults, a knitted teddy and clothes for a doll, knitted blankets, skills and ancient traditions shared across cultures and stories swapped.

For the hours that are put into producing a knitted article knitting would be judged totally uneconomic and foolishness in our modern world. But knitting is done for the love of it. Much of what we do as a church or as Disciples of Christ might be considered foolish by the world but it is a life we commit ourselves to in the love of God. In our service (October 7th) we will have the opportunity once again to renew our Covenant commitment with God:

'I willingly offer all I have and am to serve you, as and where you choose'.

And perhaps the image of knitting will come to mind as we remember the words of St Paul :

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

1 Corinthians chapter 1.

Barbara Calvert

What a privilege! By the time you read this, I expect the Olympics will be a distant memory for you. For me, they are something that I will never forget.

It all began in 2010 when I completed an on-line application form. Apart from an acknowledgement, I heard nothing until I was called for an interview at the ExCel centre in July, 2011. The interview process lasted all morning and, as with all interviews, was told I would hear later.

A few months later I heard that I had been selected to be a driver, ferrying around members of the 'Olympic Family'. I then had to take an on-line driving test which was followed by three training days. In April, I was sent my schedule of the days I would be working and it amounted to 17 days in a four week period. The ten-hour shifts were either 6am to 4pm or 2pm to midnight. On my first early shift, I caught the first train of the day at 5:20am from Chislehurst Station and was quite surprised to see seven other volunteers, all of us in our uniforms, on the platform. We discussed our different roles but we really didn't know what to expect.

My base was at the Marriott Hotel in Grosvenor Square and the garage, where over 900 BMWs were stored, was under Hyde Park - so plenty of walking. (There were 4,000 BMWs in total used for the Games). The SatNav had been specially programmed by BMW in Germany to take advantage of the Olympic Lanes but it did send us on some odd routes. To begin with, I had a few days where I could just familiarise myself with the car, the volume of traffic, and routes to the venues and airports.



I had a few near misses, got into many wrong lanes and learnt all the one-way streets around Mayfair! It became clear that the SatNav system had a few faults and people were sent over from Germany to correct them. At least it wasn't just me who had problems.

The 'clients' I was looking after were staying in hotels around Park Lane and Mayfair and, among others, were Court of Arbitration lawyers and World Anti-Doping personnel who I collected from their hotels and took to the various venues. Fortunately, I was able to see some of the events at the venues while I waited for my client to return. Taking a Mexican to the football final at Wembley, I taught him the song 'We're On Our Way to Wembley'. It must have worked as Mexico won! I did enjoy driving around London, especially in the Games Lanes which gave me quite a feeling of power.

We weren't as busy as we expected to be. All of our clients were given Oyster Cards and they seemed really to enjoy travelling around on our efficient public transport system. Howard and I actually had tickets for the athletics one evening and, when we left at about 10pm, there was a Jubilee Line train every two minutes to take spectators from Stratford to London Bridge.

My last task was to take the cars to Dartford to be made ready for the Paralympics. As volunteers, we were offered the opportunity to buy these cars. The price of £28,000 included all costs, except diesel and insurance, for three years. I am sure this was a good deal but I wasn't tempted.

Wherever I went in my uniform, people wanted to chat to me with many wishing that they had thought about becoming a volunteer. Would I do it all over again? You bet I would!

FLOWERS

Flowers are given and received for almost every occasion: Birthdays, Anniversaries, In Memory of a special person or event, to say Get Well, Thank You, Congratulations – for passing an exam, a driving test, for Weddings and Engagements, Birth of a Baby, a Christening, a New Job, Retirement etc. etc. The possibilities are endless.

It would be good to see flowers in the Church every week. If you would like to donate flowers to be displayed in Church to mark a special occasion please see the Administrator, Anthony, or one of the stewards. The flowers need not be elaborate, a plant or two on the font or a vase of flowers on a stand. If you wish an appropriate reference could be made in the Sunday notices for the day.

If you live far away but still wish to give a donation towards some flowers please contact Anthony on 020 8468 7695 or chismch@talktalk.net

FAIR TRADE STALL

The Fair Trade stall will reopen on Sunday 30th September Harvest Festival on the occasion of the first all-age/parade service of the year.

In future the Sunday morning stall will normally be open only on those Sundays when there is an all-aged service, that is, roughly once a month.

However, orders can be made for particular goods at any time through David Calvert.

In particular, Christmas catalogues will be available in the autumn and goods ordered will be available in good time for Christmas presents.



“A FAITH ON THE OCEAN WAVES”

Sue Sawyer

Many of you will know that Tony and I went on a World Cruise during last winter and early spring. We went to many places that we hadn't visited before and also we were able to revisit other places that we hadn't been to for a long time and catch up with old friends and colleagues.

Before we went on the cruise I was concerned about missing Church and wondering how I would feel about being away for Lent and Easter. I needn't have worried - God will provide! I took with me daily Bible reading notes and was able each day to read them sitting on the balcony, in the sunshine, enjoying the sea air and sometimes listening to the dolphins splashing in and out. Not quite the same as being here!

Every morning that we were at sea (out of the 98 days there were about 59 at sea) there was a Christian Fellowship gathering organised voluntarily by a lovely couple - Heather and Terry from Dawlish.

So many different nationalities, denominations and ages – it made it so interesting and everyone had something to offer. Terry and Heather had even brought with them a supply of hymn books and we used to have such a laugh trying to find hymns that we all knew. You can't imagine how difficult it was. Even if we knew the words it was more often than not to a different tune. People were joining and leaving the cruise in all different ports so our “theme tune” became “Bind us Together” and we sang this at the beginning and end of each sector. We were even lucky enough to have in our group an Anglican priest who organised Communion services for us. These services were held in various locations including the cocktail bar and the discotheque!

Every Sunday there was a service held in the theatre and led by the Captain. Although it was sometimes a bit dry and formal it was an opportunity for many people to gather together. During Lent we were able to use in the Fellowship some material that I had taken with me that Barbara and David had prepared during Lent last year. I led these and although I was really nervous about doing it, people seemed to find it valuable.

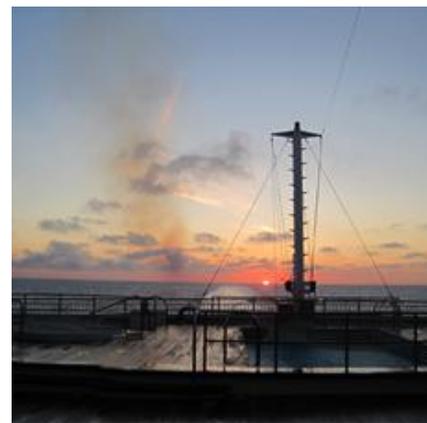
When we arrived in Cyprus a Catholic Priest and an Anglican vicar joined the cruise and so during Easter we had more formal daily services. More importantly, it meant that the crew – who were mostly Catholics – were able to have times of worship. I was really impressed that P & O had organised this for them.

On Easter morning we had a sunrise service on the aft deck by the swimming pool. It was such a special and moving time that I will never forget it.

As the sun rose over one of the flag poles it formed the shape of an illuminated cross. Many people were moved to tears.

All these things were such a bonus, such fun and such a blessing.

I shouldn't have worried – God did provide!!



JUNIOR CHURCH

Led a service in the summer



They entered into the Olympic spirit

And showed worship in a Methodist Church is always fun



They found a Labyrinth makes a good dance space

and appear to have recruited a new conductor for their choir.

Junior Church takes place every Sunday at 1030.



THE CHURCH AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Babies and Toddlers and their carers are very welcome and can make use of the crèche during our services on Sundays if they wish.

Junior Church caters for children from 3 upwards, and takes place during each Sunday Service at 1030. Contact Elaine Battarbee 020 8300 0527
ecbattarbee@btinternet.com,

Messy Church caters for children from toddlers to 8 years old (approx) and their families. One Saturday a month. Contact: Jane Cowie 020 8249 3153
janecowie74@ntlworld.com,

Youth Group Young people from 9 – 13 (years 5 – 8). Fridays 7 - 9pm. (See article). Contact: Owen Terwilliger 020 8249 2335 MethodistYouthGroup@gmail.com

Rainbows Girls 5 - 7 Mondays 5-6pm
Contact: Katie Linehan 07969 828255 firstchislehurstainbows@hotmail.co.uk

Brownies Girls aged 7 -10 Mondays 6 – 7.30pm
Contact: Helen Spooner : chis4brownies@live.co.uk

Guides Girls aged 10 – 14/16 Tuesdays 7 – 8pm
Contact: Sheila Edwards: chis4guides@live.co.uk

Rangers Young women aged 14 plus. Meet fortnightly on Tuesdays.
Contact: chis4rangers@live.co.uk

Boys Brigade Tuesdays from 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Anchor Boys 6 - 8 yrs, Junior Section 8 - 11 yrs, Company Section 11+
Contact: Jacqui Hicks 020 8467 6226 waltonhicks@sky.com,

One morning of our holiday we spent on a guided walk around the town of Faversham. It is town with a fascinating history, an ancient port, abbey and the best surviving medieval street in the country. It is the burial place of the last Norman King of England, Stephen and his wife Queen Matilda and today it is famous for the oldest British brewery in the country, Shepherd Neame founded in 1698. But on our tour we were shown on the wall of an old coaching inn a plaque to John Wesley recording that he stayed at the inn in 1743. John Wesley, wrote in his journal of addressing the people in Market Place, Faversham shortly after his return from a mission to America and finding them "more savage in their behaviour than the wildest [Red] Indians I have seen". However, in 1788, he found a Faversham congregation "very large and deeply attentive".

Part of John Wesley's success was due to setting up societies at each place he visited. The Societies, took responsibility for their own growing discipleship by organizing themselves into classes. From the earliest days members of a Methodist Church have been a member of a class. Today classes are more commonly called house groups but small groups, whatever they are called, are a sign of a healthy church. We are blessed with several thriving house groups at Chislehurst but we need more so that everyone can be invited to join a small group. Small groups care for one another pastorally, provide an opening for new comers to feel accepted and part of church life and nurture and encourage our spiritual growth.

At the annual Methodist Conference meeting in Plymouth this year a new discipleship course was launched: Step Forward.

A discipleship resource for small groups

Step Forward is written by Mark Wakelin (President of The Methodist Conference 2012). The material explores the use of small groups as a way of encouraging people in their journey of discipleship and vocation in their own local setting.

There are four elements to a group meeting:

Welcome – time to share together

Worship – time to worship together

Word – time to learn together

Witness – time to look outwards together

Discipleship material is provided in the Step Forward resources exploring some of the basic things we are expected to know and be able to do and yet don't always get to ask!

Step Forward provides:

a year's resource comprising of eight sections of material interspersed with time for social opportunities, joint worship events etc.

- training for group facilitators
- facilitator's manual, either in printed format or online
- access to the handout material for each week in electronic format online
- access to the Step Forward website (which will have enhanced support as time goes on - so please visit us from time to time)
- support for the groups through telephone, email and the website

The facilitator training days are being run at the Methodist Guy Chester Centre in Muswell Hill. As this is quite a journey for us I have asked the training facilitators to run a day's training here at Chislehurst. This they have kindly agreed to do on Saturday 3 November.

This is a great opportunity for all of us! Please sign up (by contacting Barbara, Elaine or Anthony) if you would like to go on the facilitators training day. You may be interested in becoming a small group leader or the material might be interesting to you for our existing house groups.

Take a look at the website www.stepforward-training.org.uk and have a word with Barbara.

JULIAN MEETINGS

Julian Meetings are small ecumenical prayer groups which meet to encourage people to practice contemplative prayer in their daily lives.

At the meeting at "Lulworth" we start with a brief reading from the bible, or a devotional classic or writings on contemplative prayer. After about 25 minutes silence we close with a prayer. Then we have about half an hour of reflective chat over a cup of tea. If you would like to join us at 2.30pm on the first Tuesday of the month, you would be most welcome. For more details please phone May Chapman 020 8467 1365

KNITTED BLANKETS (SEW-IN)

For over 30 years we have been making knitted blankets which used to go to India but now usually go to an orphanage in Romania.

If you would like to knit squares or join us once a month to sew them together, I would be pleased to hear from you. May Chapman 020 8467 1365

DEEP ROOTS AND SOARING BRANCHES

Trees were the inspiration for our Summer Celebration Service. As the preparation for our service said: "In the Bible are trees of all kinds. Trees provide for our practical needs - building materials for Temple and boats, shelter, and shade, fruit and nuts. Trees also provide us with a metaphor of life lived in God; deep roots and soaring branches. And trees can be a symbol of hope as new life springs from a sawn off tree stump, but ultimately it is from the tree of Calvary, when all seemed lost, that our faith springs eternal, rooted in the new life of the resurrected Christ."

During the service the congregation wrote prayers on leaves which were attached to the branches in the display. The prayers included:

- Thanksgiving to God for his love
- Praise for the wonders of creation
- Prayers for the care of mother earth and environment with a focus on trees
- For peace in troubled areas of the world and comfort and protection for those living in war affected regions
- Pray that the spirit of community witnessed during the Olympics may continue to prosper and enhance relationships across the globe
- Thanksgiving for family & friends, children & grandchildren
- For health of friends and family, for speedy recovery and support for people experiencing long term illness
- Care for people suffering from mental health problems
- For small businesses facing challenge during the recession
- Job opportunities
- Help toward restoring broken relationships



Many people played a part in the service – Barbara Calvert prepared the structure and Jacqui the display. The stewards and members of the congregation helped to lead.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CHISLEHURST & BICKLEY

“The building is in a bad way, it needs thousands of pounds to meet Health & Safety standards, and we are having to think long and hard what the options are and indeed whether we carry on” so said David Temple the Chairman of the Churches Together Shop and David Marlowe, the Treasurer. This conversation took place about 10 years ago. They were telling me about the Churches Together Charity shop in the High Street (the idea of the Methodist minister the Rev Geoffrey Fletcher in the 1990s). As I listened to all that the shop had achieved, the tens of thousands of pounds being given each year to overseas relief projects, I was stunned. Here was a dilapidated shop, selling second hand clothing and bric a brac that was enabling so much good to happen in areas of the world in desperate poverty. As I listened to them, I heard the Holy Spirit say to me: “God is pouring His blessings on this shop, on all that it is doing, because the Churches are working together.” I realised at that moment, that when the Churches work together to do His Will, then that is where God is, that is where His power and blessings are evident. I realised at that moment that I wanted to be involved.

The CTC&B is made up of the clergy plus representatives of the local churches, CYFC and the Shops. The key areas of CTC&B are:

- Worship and Prayer: this includes the joint services which happen about 4 times a year ∞ the Lent Groups ∞ the Women’s World Day of Prayer ∞ the Good Friday Walk ∞ Monday morning Prayer (at 9am at the 2gether shop) ∞ plus the monthly Prayer meeting (this is 20 to 30 minutes of Prayer at 11am at the Annunciation on the first Wednesday of the month i.e September 5th, October 3rd etc)
- Support of CTC&B charity shop at 66 High Street + the 2gether shop at 103 High Street
- Support of CYFC
- Support of CTC&B Debt-Counselling Project
- Fund-raising for Christian Aid
- Support of Orpington Foodbank

I believe passionately in Churches Together. Jesus says in John 13 v 34 " a new command I give you: Love one another, as I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." Paul says "Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God." (Romans 15:7). David says: "How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity! For there the Lord bestows his blessing, even life forevermore." (Psalm 133:1+3).

It would be wonderful if you could support any of the CTC&B activities – you will be most welcome.

Heather Williams Chair of CTC&B

For more information or if you'd like to advertise any event that you are organising to all the churches please contact:

heather.williams.williams@btinternet.com

Clare Herriot clare@2gettershop.org.uk

www.churchestogether.net

MUSIC MATTERS

SONGS OF PRAISE

Following the success of Songs of Praise last year, Churches Together in Chislehurst and Bickley invite everyone to a Songs of Praise at Chislehurst Methodist Church, Sunday 14th October at 6.30pm.

Choirs from:

St. Nicholas Church, Church of the Annunciation and Methodist Church will take part. Do come along and enjoy the occasion. We may have cause to be grateful for the under-floor heating by then.

CHOIR

Sunday 14th October as you will see elsewhere, this morning service is Church Anniversary and it would be good to put together a choir for this Celebration Service. In addition, the evening service on this Sunday will be a Churches Together Songs of Praise when the Choir could again feature. There will be 3 rehearsals for this busy Sunday; some of the music will probably be in both services.

Sunday 30th September at 12 noon until 12.45

Sunday 7th October at 12 noon until 12.45

Friday 12th October at 8 pm until 9 pm

Anyone who wants to is most welcome to be in this Festival choir: you just need to commit to 2 out of these 3 practices. Further details will appear in the weekly notice sheet nearer the time

Sunday 25th November - this morning service will be a "Songs of Praise". Is there a hymn you would like included? Something from the book before last? Something we never sing? An old favourite? A new favourite? Would you be willing to speak briefly about a meaningful hymn? There will also be readings, moments of reflection and prayer but at the time of writing, the music in the Order of Service is largely blank. Let me know what you would like to hear and/or sing

More information about each of these events from Gillian Beecher Bryant – 020 8467 6906

SHANA - OUR ONE PROGRAMME PARTICIPANT

Hello All,

My name is Shana Riley and I have been appointed One Programme Participant (OPP) for 2012/13.

I attended Bullers Wood School located here in Chislehurst and stayed on into the Sixth form. It's a diverse, well established school where everyone strives for their utmost and supports each other to become the best they can be. Which is one of the reasons I appreciated being in that environment.

As a Christian and a drama fanatic this position at Chislehurst Methodist Church seems to have been tailored for me. Outside of Sixth Form I religiously attend drama classes every Tuesday where I developed my primary skills and grew and expanded my talent. The fact that I have a chance to share my talent, inspire the youth and help make a change gives me drive and a purpose.

I attend and grew up in the Wesleyan Church in Greenwich. Everyone there feels like family and had a strong impact on my walk with Christ, contributing to making me the person I am today.

The OPP role is designed to enable, encourage, and enthuse young people and my aim is to help the youth grow and expand whilst using my specialty, drama. This is a dream of mine made reality and I feel God has put me in this position to serve and enjoy.

My plans for the future are to attend Manchester Metropolitan University after my amazing year, and study a BA drama honours. I then hope to teach and then have my own studio called "*Riley's Academy*" where I will support and develop young actors. This is my overall dream and goal.

METHODIST CONFERENCE 2013 Will be held from 4- 11 July. The annual Methodist Conference, is the governing body of the church. This year, people from all over the world followed the events and business of the Conference, with live video from the debates streamed over the Internet on the Methodist Conference . They tuned in to watch the proceedings using tablet computers and smartphones as well as laptops and desktops.

So, shall we stream the 2013 Conference into the church, so we can watch it as it happens? Do let the office know your views.

CHISLEHURST YOUTH GROUP

With the completion of our wonderful new church venue, and the myriad activities that we already host, we will begin the Chislehurst Youth Group here at Chislehurst Methodist on 14th September at 7pm. We want to provide programmes for the community which was a key goal in the restoration project. Providing for the Youth of Chislehurst and surrounding areas fits hand in hand with that goal. Promoting Christian values in today's world is more important than ever. By providing a friendly environment that children feel welcome in, and share fellowship through games and activities, we can share our faith and build those strong values vital for the next generation. The format is focused around activities. Come along and play games, get involved in arts and crafts or drama. This is to be a youth club for the youth and by the youth, so suggestions are always welcome.

Interested in joining?

The Youth Group is for all young people in years 5- 8 (aged 9-13). Activities on offer will include arts and crafts, table tennis, games, badminton, drama, music and lots more. It is a friendly, inclusive church group and is for church members, their friends and children in the wider community- everyone is welcome. A small membership fee will be required, just so we can provide on-going activities and equipment (turns out to be about £1 per session, can't beat that!)

Interested in volunteering?

We are looking for more volunteers to help with the youth group, if you have a couple of hours to spare and would like to volunteer on Friday evenings 7-9pm that we'd love to hear from you. We are looking to make a rota so you wouldn't need to commit to each week but if you are free once or twice a month then that would be great. We would also appreciate your suggestions and help with preparing activities so whatever your skills and interests we'd love to hear from you. All volunteers ages 16+ are welcome.

Suggestions on activities are welcome as well, this is a youth club for the youth, but also should be a youth club *BY* the youth. We want to give members the choice to make it their own.

Email us : MethodistYouthGroup@gmail.com

ALL THAT JAZZ



Following the great success of the Jazz concert earlier this year, the Adam Hughes Jazz Trio will be back here on 2nd March.

We have been approached by several local Jazz Bands and others have been recommended to us and it is clear there is great talent out there, and a great desire in here to hear more.

So, on Friday 16th November Brass Farthings, a professional band, will be here entertaining us for an evening of Fish 'n' Chips 'n' Jazz. Tickets will cost £16.50 to include Fish and Chips supplied by Deep Blue in the High Street.

Brass Farthings, are a London and Kent based function band and were put together by Martin Bunce over thirty years ago. During this time, a number of talented professional musicians have performed in this popular function band.

We will be laying out tables in the church, and several people have indicated a desire to bring a table of friends along. Tables will be of 8 people but single people, couples, groups of ten are equally welcome!

This is likely to be the first of many Jazz evenings held here. Perhaps an embryonic Jazz Club is forming?

RECYCLING ALUMINIUM

On a shelf near the Gents there is a white bucket for recyclable aluminium. **Do you bring all your empty drinks cans here?** Why not?

From December 2010 until now, the aluminium given by you and other friends beyond the church community has raised about £100 for the Refurbishment Fund. The price from the dealer has been as high as 70p per kg and as low as 20p (at which price you wonder if it's worth the trouble of gathering, sorting, flattening, storing and transporting). But, in the end it is, so we carry on. It is worthwhile.

Gillian Beecher Bryant

GUILT FREE SHOPPING? - YOUR CHURCH NEEDS YOU!

Do you shop online, for groceries, clothes, household items, travel, etc?

If so.... Every time you shop you can gain a donation for Chislehurst Methodist Church.

All you need to do is to register (once) with easyfundraising.org.uk – there is no catch and you as the customer pay no more, and can still take advantage of any discounts, promotions, etc. There is access to over 2000 well known retailers, e.g AA., Amazon, Boden, Boots ,B&Q, EBay, CC Fashions, Early Learning Centre, John Lewis, National Trust, Play.com, M & S, Ocado, RAC. Every purchase from then on earns money for the church.

Some church members have already registered and we have already received donations– the more of us who register, the bigger the pot of money coming in on a regular basis to fund the important work of our church – so let's get registered and encourage as many members of our families and friends as possible to do so too.

Here are some comments by people who have joined:

Alice Sennett

“Although I am not as adept as some younger people on the internet, I am delighted that I persevered – and I have now got most of my family shopping via easy fundraising too. But we need lots more people to join if it is to bring in bigger sums of money for the church.”

Ruth and Roger Dawe

“We've found a brilliant way to make money for the church. When we want to buy anything at all online - from anywhere – we go first to 'easyfundraising'. Almost always we find that the website we want is part of the scheme.”

Keith and Karen Pusey

“It's amazingly simple – like a one stop shop: we just have to remember to access our online shop through Easy Fundraising and the money flows to CMC automatically.

The online joining instructions are very clear - once you've registered with Easy Fundraising, every time you shop online with one of its registered retailers, the system makes a note of your purchase, collects the donation from the retailer and passes it to your chosen good cause, in this case, Chislehurst Methodist Church. That's it! All you have to do, once registered, is go online to easyfundraising.co.uk, type in the name of the company where you want to shop...and away you go! You can then log in in your normal way to the company from which you are purchasing

We are registered as a charity with Easy Fundraising as 'Chislehurst Methodist Church'

What we need you to do:

1. Visit <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/chislehurstmethodist> to register - a simple process that only requires just your email address and password.
2. Wait for an email confirmation of your registration and then you can start raising money for our church each time you shop through easy fundraising.
3. If you are a taxpayer, we receive 25% more if you complete their gift aid screen.

To make it easier to remember put the website on your favourites or desktop as a short cut so that for any shopping you just click on the shortcut. Maybe a yellow sticker near your computer would serve as an extra reminder!

PLEASE take the time to do this – and get your family and friends to register too: it will make a big difference once the numbers registered start to have a cumulative effect. And you will have the satisfaction of regular updates telling you how much you have raised for Chislehurst Methodist Church.

One other thing:

We receive 50p for everyone who installs the Find & Remind toolbar. This means that when you start shopping Find & Remind automatically alerts you if a donation is available from the retailer This way **Chislehurst Methodist Church** won't miss out on any donations! It has been found that supporters using Find & Remind raise up to 5 times more.

Also, by installing this, when you Goggle an item, your search will highlight those retailers who are part of easyfundraising. All very useful.

If you have any questions, or would like a demonstration, do call in at the office.

QUIET DAYS

Saturday 4th May, World Labyrinth Day, 10.00am for 10.30 - 3.00pm, including coffee on arrival and light lunch: 'The spiritual life as labyrinth (using the Chislehurst labyrinth)'.
'

Rev'd Dr. David Calvert will lead the day. Please book via the church office.

JIM BILLS (1910-2012)

Few present will forget the occasion when Jim came to church on his hundredth birthday. 'What does it feel like being a hundred?' asked Barbara Calvert. 'Well' announced Jim to the congregation, 'sometimes(long pause)it feels like a piece of mouldy old cheese'. Which demonstrated two aspects of Jim's character: his determination to tell the truth as he saw it, however uncomfortable, and his professionalism. For as one of the many and varied roles which he played in his long and full life, Jim had been a sports commentator, and so he knew full well the importance of perfect timing.

Jim Bills was profoundly influenced by three events in his life. The first was his education at Rydal, a Methodist boarding school where he was rooted and grounded in the faith which he continued to practise all his life. He also acquired such sporting skills that on one occasion he played cricket for Kent, a team he continued to watch until well into his 90s. The second formative event was his experience in the London Fire Service in the Second World War. There he saw some horrific sights, the memory of which stayed with him for the rest of his life. As a touching tribute, a Fire Service crew, complete with fire engine, formed an escort at his funeral. And the third was his long involvement with the youth club in the East End supported by Old Rydalians. Long afterwards he would continue to be approached by men in London recognising and thanking him for his encouragement and influence on their lives.

And so, quite naturally, the core of Jim's being, the essence of the man, was his kindness and generosity to others - famously to his family, but to everyone else as well, and especially to those less fortunate than himself.

One day Jim was waiting on Blackheath station and fell into conversation with a couple of Swedish tourists. How were they enjoying their trip to London? Well, they replied, the city's wonderful, but the hotel is absolutely dreadful. 'Oh dear', replied Jim, 'well you'd better come home and stay with us then'.

Now the 'us' in that last story was of course Gladys. Gladys has a story of her own to tell, including a dramatic last minute escape from Guernsey, where she was born and brought up, the day before the Germans invaded. As Jim so often said, he was truly blessed in his partner, who was never fazed by his impetuous generosity. So we can't look at Jim's life in individual isolation, since it is part of a pageant which predated his birth, involved a cast of thousands, and will continue for all those whose lives he touched.

METHODIST RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT FUND

This fund makes an important contribution to Methodism`s work for people in the Third World. In 2010/11 it improved the quality of life for over 10,000 people in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Its vision is a world where highly marginalised peoples have the resources, opportunities and skills to take care of their own development and to challenge unjust structures and trading arrangements. To achieve this it has three core priorities: to contribute to the eradication of poverty through long term development and disaster relief: secondly, to increase the effectiveness of overseas partner organisations: thirdly to challenge the causes of poverty through education and advocacy both in the UK and overseas.

In 2010/11 the fund supported 110,000 people to improve their quality of life through 45 long term projects in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Currently programmes in East Africa are being expanded. For example, MRDF has been working in a mountainous region of Ethiopia since 2004. Crop failures have forced the local people to revert to forestry with disastrous results, because in tropical countries once the tree cover is removed the soil becomes infertile.

MRDF, working with a local partner, has introduced soil enrichment, terracing and crop diversification. Farmers are now growing apples and pears as well as a variety of vegetables. Some families have received a better breed of sheep which gives better meat and lambs.

Including El Salvador and Haiti, the American continent has suffered the worst environment in the world. MRDF has not walked away from the people of Haiti. The fund has received some £465,000 from donors. The devastation from the 2010 earthquake has been severe. Over 200,000 people are dead and a similar number have been injured. Almost 90% of the buildings in Port au Prince have been destroyed. It is estimated that it will take at least 10 years to return to normality. MRDF is committed to this long haul: meanwhile people are still living in tents.

On the positive side MRDF has built 400 homes, bought seeds for 22,500 people and is running agricultural training workshops. Sanitation has been improved. Some schools have been rebuilt and over 400 teachers have been trained in counselling. An MRDF project has helped to provide sports facilities and coaching for children from the slums of the capital city.

These are just two example of the fund`s work, but I hope they will challenge readers go support that work financially. There will be a poster in the courtyard giving more information.

John Sennett

WORSHIP - Celebrating God in the ruins of Lesnes Abbey

From: Lesnes Abbey in Abbey Wood

On Pentecost Sunday, though there were no visible tongues of fire, the temperature soared and the sun beat down as a crowd of over 100 people gathered to worship God in the picturesque ruins of Lesnes Abbey in Abbey Wood. Leading the worship were the Chair of the Methodist District, the Revd Jenny Impey; the Bishop of Woolwich, the Rt Revd Michael Ipgrave; the Bishop of Rochester, the Rt Revd James Langstaff and local representatives of the Methodist Circuit.



The Revd Simon Boxall said: "Although it cannot be said that three thousand people were added to their number that day, many passers-by stopped and stared at what may have seemed a strange spectacle, but was in fact an example of a living Church gathering. The Word was clearly proclaimed through the direct reading of Scripture, and the preaching which followed. As the bread was broken, and the wine was poured and shared, there was

definitely a sense of God's presence in that ancient place of worship. We were encouraged, as the theme of the Service proclaimed to Go for Gold, in the power of the Spirit."

After the service, there was time to improve the sun tan as everyone shared the picnics they had brought with them. None of those who led the worship had to rush off to other commitments, so there was time for people from the different churches to get to know each other.

Simon continued: "At the original feeding of the 5,000 there was quite a mess left over, about 12 baskets of food. However, in an important act of witness those who participated in the service picked up all their rubbish, and left the site as clean as when we arrived."

A FRESH VISION FOR METHODIST MISSION AT HOME AND OVERSEAS

This year, the Methodist Conference agreed a new understanding, vision and purpose of the Church's calling to worldwide mission, seeking to integrate this more fully into the work of the whole Church.

"Mission is the lifeblood of Methodism," said Mr Daleep Mukarji, Chair of the Mission Working Group, who presented the Future Mission Together report to the Conference. "This one mission is local and global, wherever it is located. Instead of having a separate missionary society, we want to ensure that mission and evangelism become even more embedded in every aspect of the life and work of the Methodist Church. As we learn and grow as disciples of Jesus, I believe that mission will move closer to the centre of everything we do."

There will be a special bicentenary celebration of the Methodist Missionary Society (MMS) in October 2013, coordinated by the Leeds Methodist District, to recognise the outstanding work of the Society over the last 200 years. Following this, the Conference has agreed that the work of the Society will be fully integrated into that of the world church relationships staff team.

The Revd Stephen Poxon, MMS Secretary, added: "We are so grateful for the work of the MMS and for the faithfulness of the Methodist people, who have given their time, money and passion in service of others throughout the world. They do this because we have a loving God, whose love overflows into his world, transforming it for the better. Mission is not just something done by missionaries and I hope that every Methodist will be inspired to live out the mission that God is calling them to."

The Conference resolved to inspire, educate, communicate with and support Methodists everywhere in order to help them better understand mission, locally and globally.

The Conference is the body that agrees policy for the Methodist Church. It meets annually as a group of 306 representatives, along with a number of associate and ecumenical members. This year's Conference was held at Plymouth Pavilions from 28 June - 5 July.

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Help is needed to steward the Christmas Tree Festival from 1 – 9 December. In addition, it would be useful to have plenty of help around as the trees are being set up on Friday 30th November from 5.30 to 8.00. If you can assist, please get in touch with Gillian Johnson on 01689 831962

MY ATHLETICS CLUB

Every Saturday morning from 10 to 11:30 I go to my athletics club. It is held at Sutcliffe Park, which has a running track and a field for sports such as discus and javelin.

When you enrol for the club, you are given a t-shirt and a bag for you to use when you go to the club, they both have London Athletic Track Stars written on them and they are dark green in colour.

I am in a group for children aged 8 to 11 who enjoy and are good at athletics. There are about 14 children in my group. My athletics coach is called Keileigh and she teaches us techniques for sprinting, long distance, long jump, high jump, triple jump, discus and javelin.

My favourite is high jump but everybody thinks I am better at long distance, where I tend to have a spurt of energy on the last 100 meters and I can therefore overtake the people I run against!

When our group is doing athletics there are a lot of other people using Sutcliffe Parks facilities, so we have to be careful when we are running in specific lanes not to accidentally run into somebody else because that could result in a bad accident !

On Saturdays there are a group of teenagers who are probably hopefuls for the Rio Olympics practicing running and also a man called Lawrence Okoye, a discus thrower who was in the discus final at the London 2012 games representing Great Britain. I was very proud to see him on TV because he trains at the same place I do.

When my lesson starts we do a warm up of 800 metres that can be really tiring! After that we do a lot of stretches and then we do a lot of activities to work on our technique, speed and endurance for different athletic sports. For the end of our lesson we do a warm down which is where I do light exercise to avoid muscle injury. It consists of jogging 400 metres. In one lesson I would do at least 1,500 metres of running or jogging (including my warm up and warm down).

I really enjoy athletics because it gives me a chance to do a lot of sport activities which I enjoy because of my energetic personality and to also make a lot of friends. It has improved my knowledge of running techniques in all distances and so now my running has improved. The same thing has also happened with my throwing of the javelin and discus!

By Sira Maclean, age 9



“WELCOMING STRANGERS INTO THE CHURCH IMPLIES A WILLINGNESS TO BE CHANGED”: a summary of the Conference sermon of the Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, Michael King.

Discipleship begins with recognising who it is that we are following: “Then their eyes were opened, and they recognised him.” Jesus comes alongside the two troubled, disappointed disciples. There is absolutely no expectation that they will see Jesus, yet Jesus comes alongside. Quite simple, but utterly profound: it is God who seeks us out and is always there for us. It is up to us whether or not we choose to recognise what God is offering. Jesus finds us; some people talk about seeking and finding God, but the truth is that God is already beside us.

So the Emmaus Road story opens with the mystery of faith. The world, its happenings and its everyday events affect all people. Yet people of faith see these in a different way, a God-centred way. Seeing through eyes of faith means that the world looks very different. These early disciples on the road have yet to see this new reality.

Jesus gets alongside the two disciples by asking a question. “What are you discussing as you walk along?” He must have known their thoughts, yet he makes no presuppositions. He certainly does not give answers to questions that have not yet been asked of him. I have met a number of people in my life, inside and outside the Church, who have told me answers to questions I never asked! Jesus says, “What are you discussing?” How is it for you?

I was 20 years old, it was midnight, I was on the back of a lorry under a flimsy tarpaulin in a thunderstorm. I was in West Africa. There were about a dozen others with me, all strangers. The lorry stopped at the Upper Volta (now Burkina Faso) border with Mali. It was very dark! We heard that the border would not re-open until 7.00am. Everyone else got out quickly in the pitch darkness, off to find somewhere to rest in the border village. I had little idea where I was. Six hours before in Bobo Dioulasso I had asked if this lorry would get me closer to Timbuktu, to the desert where I was heading. Now where was I? What could I do? I settled down on the floor of that lorry, lightning crashing around. It was then that I had the realisation that no-one who knew me had any idea where I was – and I wasn’t even sure myself! And it was then that God came alongside me and asked, “How is it, for you?” And he gave me peace. I knew he was there. Whilst my spiritual eyes were opened, it meant that my physical eyes could happily close! I slept peacefully, woken up by my fellow passengers jumping over the sides of the lorry as the dawn was breaking.

Jesus comes alongside. He presumes nothing. He asks where his new ‘companions on the road’ are, personally and spiritually. That is why the World Church team have used the word ‘companion’ for different relationships in recent times, as a word which somehow is more applicable than ‘partners’. Companions or ‘companeros’ (the Spanish version gives an even more rounded sense of the word) is at the heart of the Emmaus Road story. Non-judgemental, learning together, sharing together – and all for God’s glory!

The two disciples on the Emmaus Road are allowed to tell their story; Jesus listens and does not interrupt. What an important ability it is to listen carefully to where people are coming from – physically and spiritually. Jesus listens, and how he needs his Church to listen too to the deep yearnings and needs of the world. I pray that, like Jesus, we ask what the questions really are, before offering what we hope is the answer.

The Emmaus couple finish their anxiety-ridden story. Only then does Jesus try to put it into an historical context. He explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. The stranger's story does make sense. Shall we invite him for supper? So, in the guise of a stranger, Jesus was invited in to share a meal, friendship and fellowship. Some of the most special moments in my life have come when complete strangers have shared food with me; or indeed I have shared with them. The Bible has many examples of God entering households as a stranger. If I pick up my own story on my West African journey, now in Mali, we went on for another 12 hours on the open back of that lorry; a long and very hot day when any and every piece of food was shared with me by people, by strangers, who had comparatively little. It was like a confirmation of God's presence and goodness. I knew that I was meeting with God. Hospitality is powerful.

The two companions offer hospitality and urge the stranger to stay and eat with them, which is where the real meaning of 'companion' comes from, of course; 'with bread', sharing together 'with bread'. Jesus responds to their invitation of hospitality, seemingly because the day was "almost over". Little did they know then that the rest of their lives was just beginning.

What Jesus does, in one simple action, is to move from guest to host. The stranger blesses the bread. Jesus was made so welcome that he assumed the role of host. Now there's a real lesson here for us in the British Church. Over the last 50 years, many people of different nationalities have come into the UK. Nothing new in this, we're all mongrels and all the healthier for it. What we need to be sure of is that our brothers and sisters from all these different cultures and nationalities are able to find a home in our local churches and chapels. All need to find a welcome. But I will go further; all those in the host churches need to understand that any stranger, properly welcomed, will change those same churches. Welcome implies a willingness to be changed.

There's an African word, 'Ubuntu'. The heart of its meaning is "I am who I am because of what we are together." The next conversation, the next pastoral visit, whenever we listen to each other will contribute to whom we are, to whom we will become. When we welcome people to our churches, we need to be prepared to be changed, radically changed.

The hardest thing for many to accept is the change of role. Traditional leaders of the church can find it difficult to enable the 'guest' to become the 'host'. The member from another country, the young person newly converted, the person whose lifestyle, or sexuality, or abilities, or impairments seem very different – how is it possible for them

to minister to a fellowship that has become at ease with itself, or too comfortable with its own exclusive view of the world?

These two disciples in their house in Emmaus certainly had their eyes opened! Suddenly, in the blessing of the bread, in the action of Jesus as host, in the words spoken or the eyes that met around the table – they became aware of a new reality. Many have had the experience of knowing a new reality through the sharing of bread and wine. It can be truly life-transforming. That's why the two rushed out of the house and returned to Jerusalem. Sharing this good news could not be delayed.

So where do we share this precious news in our own British context? It is a context of increasing secularism, of politics where we are irritatingly told that elections are only about the economy, of apathy to any kind of commitment, of accepted 'humour' that plumbs the depths of self-deprecation and the humiliation of others. Surely, we as Christians have an alternative world view. Our eyes have been opened to a loving God who rejoices in us, who says we are worthy, who loves us and everyone else, no matter what. If our eyes are opened, we see things differently.

If you and I are sure of whom we are following, we will become 'world transforming' disciples. So let's be clear that we do not follow a philosophy, or a book of rules. We follow Jesus and we are in relationship with the Living God. If the Church regains confidence in Christ as its head, it will become again a movement of 'world transforming' disciples. The world is changed, is spiritually transformed, by ordinary women and men of all ages looking at what is happening all around them – the everyday, the routine, even the humdrum - with a new sharpness of vision that turns the apparently ordinary into the miraculous thing that life is. Just like the two in Emmaus; when they became aware of the presence of Jesus, it changed their outlook completely. It transformed their lives.

CHURCHES TOGETHER CHARITY SHOP

The CTC Charity Shop, near the Post Office, was founded with the specific aim of providing funding for charities, mainly in the Third World, which do not have access to funding from major donors - Oxfam, CAFOD etc. The second requirement is that they must be registered charities.

On average, donations of around £40,000 are made each year. Churches are asked to put forward worthy causes which are considered at quarterly management meetings.

The shop is entirely staffed by volunteers from the member churches of CTC&B. They are asked to work four hour shifts, either 10 am to 1 pm, or 1 pm to 4 pm. Saturday is the day that the shop has greatest difficulty in finding volunteers.

MHA (previously Methodist Homes)

Methodist Homes (now MHA) was founded in 1943 and currently has 90 care homes, including dementia care, nursing & residential care. In addition it has “live at home” schemes, which support people living in their own homes. MHA has a very high standard and is bringing the 18 former Southern Cross homes, which they acquired last year, up to MHA standards. In addition to these 90 homes there are live-at-home housing schemes, such as the one at Dore nr. Sheffield, where former Chislehurst members, Judith & David Temple live. There residents buy leases. Increasingly many who own their own homes, are choosing to buy leases and leading semi-independent lives. Today 12,500 people are supported in these various ways. MHA has particular expertise, for example, in dementia care.

The MHA homes are not just for practising Methodists. They are open to those of all beliefs and none. What makes them different is their care for the whole person. They are concerned for example with the spirituality of older people. Each one of the homes has a chaplain and there are services following the Methodist tradition. Volunteers are involved to support the care staff and residents.

MHA was founded in order to improve the quality of life of older people, guided by Christian principles of love, respect & compassion. They still do.

Last year the organisation Southern Cross failed. MHA took over 18 of these homes, including St. Raphael's in Orchard Rd. Bromley. Until then the nearest MHA home was in Shirley. John & I have visited St. Raphael's on several occasions, and joined their volunteers. Currently there are 58 residents, which include some very ill and frail residents in the modern nursing wing, staffed by nursing staff. MHA took over the management of the home in October 2011. Since then they have done an incredible amount. The whole building has been re-carpeted, some redecoration is in progress, and the garden which had become overgrown is being put to rights. A part-time chaplain has been appointed and they are readvertising for a Volunteers Organiser. If anyone is interested in volunteering they can talk to us, or contact St. Raphael's direct. Their contact details are Tel. 0208 313 1377, or Email: home.bml@mha.org.uk. We have found all the staff very caring and welcoming. The kitchen was awarded 5* by the LB Bromley inspectors.



Thank you to those who supported MHA during MHA week and the coffee morning.
Alice Sennett

TAPATHON

We have been asked to participate in 'Tapathon 2012'. The Tapathon 2012 is an official fund raising event for BBC Children in Need, where we will be participating in the world record for the greatest number of people performing the same tap dance at multiple venues simultaneously. To participate we need to perform a 'set' routine twice through at 1pm on Sunday 18th November. The event will take place here at Chislehurst Methodist Church.

To participate in this event there is a £10 registration fee. This fee includes a commemorative t-shirt, ordered to size, professionally designed and printed for the Tapathon 2012. The T-Shirt is how funds are raised for Children in Need. This means you do not have to raise sponsorship funds, unless you wish to do so.



Classes will be held to enable the pupils to learn the routine. A simplified version of the routine is available for pupils in Primary & Grade 1 classes but you must be a minimum of 6 years to participate. Please see the timetable below for details of the classes. Primary & Grade 1 classes do not start until Monday 8th October but senior routine classes starts from Saturday 8th September. Classes to learn the routine will be held every week until the day of the performance. Any adults who would like to participate are welcome to join us at the Saturday senior class but please make sure you have some tap experience as beginner's steps will not be taught, just the routine. Payment will be required for the additional class at the following price;

30 min class	£3.00 per class
45 min class	£4.00 per class

Classes will be held at the following times;

Mondays at Chislehurst Village Hall	5.30pm – 6.00pm	Tapathon Junior
Routine – Primary's & Grade 1's		
Saturdays at Chislehurst Methodist Church	11.30am – 12.15pm	Tapathon Senior
Routine – Grade 2's upwards – FROM 8 th September		

Michelle Sidwell

WHAT ARE MEET THE PEOPLE TOURS?

Joan Mayes

Meet the People Tours are an expression of sustainable tourism, organised by Traidcraft, through a Newcastle-based award winning tour operator – Saddle Skedaddle (their other focus is cycling holidays). There is the possibility of visiting 14 countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America. The principal object is for small groups of people to visit Traidcraft producers and Traidcraft Exchange though other charities are visited too.

It enables fair-trade enthusiasts to learn how the lives of small scale producers have been changed through acquiring new skills and techniques, by working collaborative and going organic, not only benefiting the commodity but often resulting in unexpected improvements to health.

The tours are operated on fair trade terms with more than 60% of the cost of the holiday being reinvested in the local economy. Additionally, a minimum of 4% goes to the producers and projects visited.

The groups – usually about 9 – 12 people all have an interest in Fair Trade, usually being active enthusiasts of the Fair trade movement.

The tours take one well away from the normal tourist routes, though a few visits of this dimension are included. It really does enable one to meet people in their homes and places of work to engage in meaningful conversation. Admittedly sometimes people will tell you what they think you want to hear, but majority tell their story as is – achievements and failure, problems being faced or how they have been overcome. As such the visitors are enabled to get much closer to the grass roots and learn what life is like for people at the beginning of the food or production chain. There is mutual sharing and much discussion, sometimes resulting in a visitor with an appropriate skill, returning at a later date to share their expertise, in fields such as design, technology or marketing.

Admittedly, these trips are not for everyone: If a priority for you is home comforts, then you might struggle. Accommodation can range between a simple, locally run hotel to a bed with a mattress placed on a solid metal base in a school room with very limited washing and toilet facilities. You might have to use your fingers to eat food from a metal plate – afterwards washing the implement, under a cold running tap before returning it to a storage rack to drip dry in readiness for the next person's use. If this makes you feel squeamish – forget it – you'll have nightmares.

But if you like getting down to grass-roots level, going off the normal tourist routes and seeing countries in as near a non-touristy way as possible, then the inconveniences melt away. Instead you will count it a real privilege to have been among people who are being empowered by fair trade and probably be considering where to go next.

Music at Chislehurst Methodist Church
Prince Imperial Road, Chislehurst BR7 5LX



Autumn Concert Programme

AN EVENING OF MUSIC FROM
FILMS AND SHOWS

*Premiere String Quartet are delighted to be joined
by Bromley Resident and West End Star of
Phantom of the Opera*

Scott Davies

Saturday 13th October 7.30pm

Programme to include –

Oh what a beautiful Morning – Oklahoma

God on High - Les Miserables

Music of the Night - Phantom of the Opera

West Side Story Suite

Music from Harry Potter and Star Wars



Premiere String Quartet are a group of professional musicians who have held principal positions in some of the country's leading orchestras. For this concert they are joined by Scott Davies. Scott performs regularly as the lead role in Phantom of the Opera in London and has also appeared in other shows including Carousel and Chess internationally. He has performed in leading roles for English National Opera including Ernani as well as being seen on TV in programmes including Taggart and Take The High Road.

Admission £12 adults £7 Children incl. refreshments Tel 020 8468 7695

email chismch@talktalk.net chislehurstmethodistchurch.org.uk

Tickets also available from the Cafe in En Parade, 7 Royal Parade, Chislehurst BR7 6NR

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- Sunday 30th September** 1030 Harvest Festival to include Parade and All Age service, followed by a church lunch.
- Saturday 13th October** 4- 6pm Messy Church
- Saturday 13th October** 7.30 Concert. Music from Films and Shows, see inside back cover.
- Sunday 14th October** Church Anniversary and Gift Day. See enclosed leaflet.
- Sunday 14th October** 6.30 Songs of Praise for Churches Together in Chislehurst and Bickley. Choirs from Methodist Church, St. Nicholas Church and the Church of the Annunciation will participate.
- Friday 16th November** 7.30 Jazz 'n' Fish and Chips
- Saturday 1st December** Christmas Fair and start of Christmas Tree Festival
- Saturday 1st December to Sunday 9th** Christmas Tree Festival
- Thursday 20th December** 7.30 Christmas Concert. Premiere String Quartet to perform Christmas Music and include sing-a-long carols.
- Tuesday 1st January** 3pm New Year's Day Concert. Premiere String Quartet play favourite Strauss Waltzes & Polkas.

More details on some of these events are in Contact and will be in the weekly Notice Sheet and on our web site.

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020 8468 7695

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