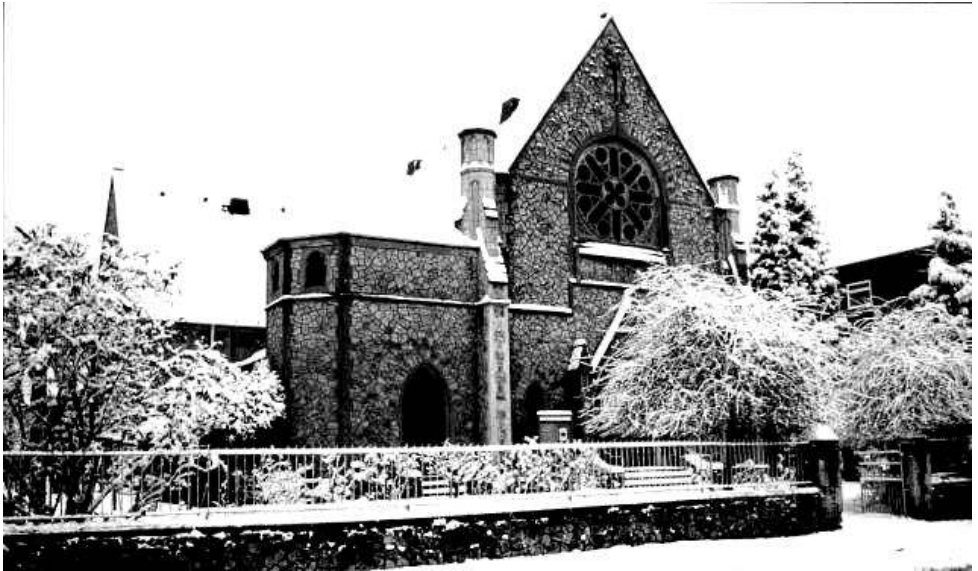


THE  
OUTLOOK

JANUARY/FEBRUARY

2011



Emmanuel Church Sidcup

Methodist and United Reformed

## From the Minister

Over the Christmas period I used a poem written by the American theologian Howard Thurman. Now, if you have never heard of him let me assure you that he is right up there with Martin Luther King Junior. In fact not only was he King's spiritual mentor but he introduced King to Ghandi and to non violent protesting.

Anyway, the poem starts:-

“When the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and the princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,.....”

And we can add .....in the church the wonderful decorations are removed. The twinkling lights on the Christmas tree are turned off. The candles on the advent ring are extinguished. The nativity scene put away. All the sights and sounds of Christmas will be removed.

We now find ourselves in January when the days are short on sunlight. Much of the countryside seems to be asleep with many trees bared of their foliage and many creatures hibernating. We may or may not get another blanket of snow. We have made our New Year resolutions and we may even keep them!

However, the poem tells us that the kings and princes are home but of course before they went they left gifts. Not only the material gifts but gifts of their time and their wisdom.

In a book I recently read I came across the concept of “the A to Z of what we offer”. It is a model that helps us to consider and reflect on our God given gifts. Its an exercise worth completing, for in our reflecting we may find that we have not used some of our gifts for years. It is almost as though they have been frozen in time or are sleeping like hibernating creatures. Maybe some of us have not discovered all the gifts God has given us. Nevertheless although the days of January may be cold and short in daylight we will need all the gifts, those known and those to be discovered, for from now on, for to quote the rest of Thurman's poem, the work of Christmas now begins and that is:-

“To find the lost,  
To heal the broken,  
To feed the hungry,  
To release the prisoner,  
To rebuild the nations,  
To bring peace among people,  
and to make music in the heart. “

The HOW is what we need to discern with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Finally, to return to my winter theme for there are days in January when the sun does shine, the sky is blue and we see the country clearly in its winter coat. I don't know about you but those days really make me come alive. I want to be out and about

enjoying the fresh, if not cold, air. And talking about being alive. I'll finish this letter with another of Thurman's quotes "Ask not what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive... then go do it. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive".

A happy new year to one and all.

*Malcolm*

# CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

## 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2011

Guest Preacher  
KIRSTY THORPE

Joint Moderator U.R.C. General Assembly

In 2011 we are delighted to welcome Kirsty Thorpe, the Joint Moderator of the URC General Assembly to lead our worship.

We are organising a bring and share lunch after the service when everyone will have the opportunity to chat with Kirsty.

Jennifer Thornton is co-ordinating the lunch. Please could you let her know what your contribution to the lunch will be by 15<sup>th</sup> January 2011.

Why not bring a friend!

Malcolm and the Elders.

### **Just for Fun**

The theme of a Sunday morning sermon by a Glasgow minister was that "every blade of grass held a sermon"

The next day, as he was mowing his lawn, a passing parishioner said, "that's the ticket, minister - keep 'em short."

## What is



### Messy Church can be what we make it and when we want it.

At my daughter's Church they have it, once a month, on a Saturday.

3:30 – 4:00 Reception, Tea/Coffee, Name Tags, Activities

4:00 – 5:00 Activities – 6 Craft Tables with 1 or 2 helpers on each table showing the children and adults what to do.

5:00 – 5:30 Brief Discussion about the Activities, short talk (Sermon) about activity theme (Theirs was LIGHT) interspaced with a couple of popular hymns, flag waving, lots of noise etc.

5:30 – 6:00 Food, Tea/Coffee etc

They have an "Army" of helpers – some come beforehand and set the tables up or afterwards to clean up. Some make cakes, sausage rolls, sandwiches etc. Some run the activity tables, make tea and coffee, be a receptionist, write name tags etc.

Teenagers helped with the activities on the craft tables and made a perfect link between the older helpers and the younger children, showing without taking over.

It was wonderful to see so many happy, smiling faces for the 3 hours (You couldn't get rid of people at 6:00). A completely different kind of Church.

It has been suggested that we TRY something like this at a Family/Parade Service.

Perhaps, after the Colours are brought into Church at 10:30, we could all go to activities in the hall until 11:15 then back to the Church for 15 minutes whilst the hall is cleared up and food (if any) got ready

I think the older Scouts and Guides would love to get involved in setting up the activities with help from their leaders and even parents.

In today's society young people are used to "sound bites" of five to ten minutes, combined with active participation and the use of multimedia together with rich and varied styles of music (both old and new). I think that to reach out to them we have got to try something new. If we can get them to attend "Worship" willingly once a month and get the Christian Message over to them in a way they understand then we will have achieved something and hopefully have helped make them into better individuals, which I am sure is what it is all about.

Everybody's input into this is welcome, whether in agreement or totally against. I believe, that to do nothing is, is to see the slow lingering death of our Church as we know it within a couple of years.

*Roger Latch.*

## Values

To realize  
The value of a sister or brother  
Ask someone  
Who doesn't have one.

To realize  
The value of ten years:  
Ask a newly  
Divorced couple.

To realize  
The value of four years:  
Ask a graduate.

To realize  
The value of one year:  
Ask a student who  
Has failed a final exam.

To realize  
The value of nine months:  
Ask a mother who gave birth to a  
stillborn.

To realize  
The value of one month:  
Ask a mother  
Who has given birth to a premature baby.

To realize  
The value of one week:  
Ask an editor of a weekly newspaper.

To realize  
The value of one minute:  
Ask a person  
Who has missed the train, bus or plane.

To realize  
The value of one-second:  
Ask a person  
Who has survived an accident.

Time waits for no one.  
Treasure every moment you have.  
You will treasure it even more when  
You can share it with someone special.

To realize the value of a friend or family  
member:

LOSE ONE.

*The origin of this letter is unknown,  
But it brings good luck to everyone who  
passes it on.*

Remember....  
Hold on tight to the ones you love!

### Men's Supper Club

We meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month during the winter, in the Green Room, at 7.30pm for supper and a talk by an invited speaker. The cost is about £5.

Jan 12	Speaker not yet announced
Feb 9	Speaker not yet announced

### Table Sale

The 4th Sidcup Guides will be holding a table sale after Church Parade on Sunday 16 January in the hall. This is to raise funds for the 2 Guides travelling to Switzerland next summer.

This is a chance for you to donate unwanted Christmas presents and purchase some bargains.



# OUR BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

## JANUARY

Arthur Brinley Davis	1969
Joseph George Kearsley	1978
Lily Oswald	1988
Mabel Brunton	1990
Vincent Sawyer	1983
Gillian Averil Lister (née Huett)	1991
Marjory Treacher	1995
Ernest John Reader	2000
Elsie Runacres	2001
Geoffery Betts	2003

## FEBRUARY

Henry Russell Verinder	1981
Maurice Adams	1985
Lilian Thompson	1986
Thomas George Brawm	1956
Rose Brawm	1979
Andrew James Bruce Boland	1979
Edith May Davidson	1985
John Clifford Davidson	1950
Florence Emily Wellman	1995
Elsie Jackson Watson	1999
Agnes Hutchison	2000
Sydney Charles Upson	2000
Evelyn Frances Ellercamp	2002

FOREVER WITH THE LORD

### Christmas Market

The Women's Hour Christmas Market held on November 13<sup>th</sup> was well attended and raised £514.85 for church funds.

## **Beauty Tips**

For attractive lips, speak words of kindness.

For lovely eyes seek out the good in people.

For a slim figure, share your food with the hungry.

For beautiful hair, let a child run their fingers through it once a day.

For poise, walk with the knowledge that you never walk alone.

People, even more than things, have to be restored, renewed, revived, reclaimed and redeemed; never throw out anyone.

Remember, if ever you need a helping hand, you will find one at the end of each of your arms.

As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands; one for helping yourself, and the other for helping others.

*This is a wonderful poem that Audrey Hepburn wrote when asked to share her 'beauty tips'~, It was read at her funeral years later.*

A contribution sent by Caroline Neuff

## **The Christian Enquiry Agency**

The Christian Enquiry Agency seeks to respond to the needs and questions of a new generation. At its heart is [www.christianity.org.uk](http://www.christianity.org.uk) - a website that can easily be found by anyone who types the word Christianity into a search engine and which gives information about what Jesus said and did, what Christians believe and what it means to have life in all its fullness. As those behind the new project say: 'people who are searching the internet to help them think about the spiritual parts of their lives are in safe hands'. Do try it and, when the opportunity arises, please do commend it.

*Malcolm*

### **The Editor wishes all readers a Happy and Peaceful New Year**

Please note that the closing date for copy for the

**March/April Outlook** will be

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> February**

Earlier contributions will be welcomed.

Please make sure that I am aware of any events or meetings that need to be included on the calendar.

Tony Howard

[Emmanuel.church.outlook@gmail.com](mailto:Emmanuel.church.outlook@gmail.com)

## NEW SOUTHERN SYNOD MODERATOR

It is with great pleasure that I write to you at this time in our Christian calendar when ‘All God’s people wait in hope’ for the joy that comes at Christmas.

Southern Synod has been waiting in hope for a new Moderator since 10<sup>th</sup> October 2010. With great joy, I announce that we have one. The General Assembly Nominating Group has unanimously agreed to nominate **The Revd Nicola Furley-Smith** to be the new Moderator for Southern Synod and she has graciously consented to be appointed.

Her nomination will be considered by the Mission Council Advisory Group (MCAG) on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2010 for appointing. Subject to that approval, Nicola will commence as Moderator on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2011.

Most people in Southern Synod know Nicola as Convener of our Synod Council. She is also the Minister at Wallington URC, where she has been for the past 11 years.

I have no doubt at all that her 14 years service in Southern Synod as a Minister in local pastorates and also her knowledge of past and present Synod Structures will be of immense help as she takes on the role.

May we continue to hold Nicola (and her husband Russell and their two children Cameron and Ross) in our prayers that the good Lord, whose Kingdom work we are engaged in, will endue her with power from on high and make her a blessing to the Synod, the Denomination and beyond.

With Advent seasonal greetings to you.

Yours in Christ

*Revd Derrick Sena Dzandu-Hedidor, Synod Clerk*

## ANGEL

No fluffy tutu with tinselled halo over her head;  
no chubby cherub nude except for garlands on the ceiling over my bed;  
no widespread-winged form in glist’ning robe arrayed;  
no angel thus to me has been displayed...

But I have seen an aura, felt a ‘presence’ in a space,  
it came not from a human but from a finer place –  
An Angel – special messenger to let me know God’s here,  
an Angel to inspire me and take away my fear.

Only artists paint an angel in the stilted form we know,  
with cherubim and seraphim showing rosy cheeks aglow;  
but only those with ‘inner feel’ attuned to finer things  
will discover how an Angel shares ‘presence’ when it sings.

*ANN VOADEN July 2010*

*Should have been read at December’s Friendship Club meeting*

## Pastoral News

Congratulations to Tracey Hollingum on her engagement to Dan Beeson. Pat & Roy Stephenson need our support and prayers at this difficult time. Frank Midgley has been suffering from shingles. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Pray for Betty Haftke who has lost her sister and has also been unwell.

Remember Lorna New, Bunty Cumming and Dallas Lewis in their Nursing Homes.

Continue to pray for Winnie Webb, Sheila Justham and Bryn Williams  
Hilda Upson is still waiting for treatment on her hands.

If you know of someone who needs to be remembered in our prayers, please write your request in the Prayer Book before Morning Service. The Prayer Book is on the table at the back of the Sanctuary.

## Cradle Roll Birthdays

Jan. 13 Gabriel Rai

1 year old

Happy Birthday Gabriel !



## Bexley/Lewisham/Dartford Food Not Bombs.

The money spent on the military in one week is enough to feed everyone in the world for one year.

The waste food in the UK is enough to feed all of its people who are currently going hungry. This is good quality food. Food Not Bombs gets it to the people who matter.

Bexley/Lewisham/Dartford Food Not Bombs is a group of volunteers who take good quality, within-date food which would have been thrown away by businesses, cook it up, and distribute it to homeless hostels and day centres.

We formed as an idea in early February 2010, and since then have expanded faster than I possibly dreamed.

We collect food from Kelsey's Farm, Ruxley Farm Shop and Swanley Bakery (Sidcup and Swanley branch), and then cook and serve it up at St Mungo's, Pagnell Street, a homeless hostel near New Cross station, and at Broadway Manor Place near Kennington.

FareShare does similar work, collecting food from manufacturers and distributors.

See <http://bldfoodnotbombs.moonfruit.com>

## **Thank You**

Thank you all and each, individually and together, for all the very kind messages I've received from you, and all the prayers too which have winged their way to me since Mum passed away. Please will you accept this message as my thanks, because I have had just so, so many cards and letters, and I really do appreciate them all.

I went on my earlier-booked Retreat, which was at Wantage Convent and this year was a Silent Retreat rather than a workshop format. It was very restful and helpful.

Although it's difficult tying up all the loose ends of estate, probate, house sale etc. from a distance, Mum's solicitor is a gem and proving very helpful over the phone; all the paperwork is so overwhelming it feels like information over-load, so it's good to have a friendly solicitor who actually knew Mum well over a number of years and is willing (albeit no doubt charging well for it, of course!) to take on the brunt of it without being patronising.

Must press on now with an accumulation of other mail, church meetings Notes and Minutes, and try not to push it all onto the back burner for another day!

Love to you all, God bless,

*Heather*

### **Christian Meditation**

Emmanuel Church Sidcup

Malcolm will hold meetings in the Weaver Room on the  
THIRD FRIDAY of each month at 7.30 p.m.

#### **Dates for 2011.**

January 21	February 18
March 18	April 15
May 20	June 17
July 15	August 19
September 16	October 21
November 18	December 16

### **The Julian Meetings.**



## Services for January

2	10.30am	Rev. Jeanette Richardson	Covenant Service
9	10.30am	Rev. Malcolm Wright	
16	10.30am	Rev Barbara Calvert	
23	10.30am	Rev Dr Kirsty Thorpe	Church Anniversary
30	10.30am	Rev. Malcolm Wright	

## Revised Common Lectionary

Calendar Liturgical Date	Hebrew Reading
Jan-01 Holy Name of Jesus	Numbers 6:22-27
Jan-01 New Year's Day	Ecclesiastes 3:1-13
Jan-02 Second Sunday after Christmas Day	Jeremiah 31:7-14 or Sirach 24:1-12
Jan-06 Epiphany of the Lord	Isaiah 60:1-6
Jan-09 Baptism of the Lord	Isaiah 42:1-9
Jan-16 Second Sunday after the Epiphany	Isaiah 49:1-7
Jan-23 Third Sunday after the Epiphany	Isaiah 9:1-4
Jan-30 Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany	Micah 6:1-8
Feb-06 Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany	Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12)
Feb-13 Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany	Deuteronomy 30:15-20 or Sirach 15:15-20
Feb-20 Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany	Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18
Feb-27 Eighth Sunday after the Epiphany	Isaiah 49:8-16a



## Services for February

6	10.30am	Mr Chris Price
13	10.30am	Rev. Malcolm Wright
20	10.30am	Rev David Gillman
27	11.30pm	Rev. Malcolm Wright

### Psalm Reading

Psalm 8

Psalm 8

Psalm 147:12-20 or Wisdom of Solomon 10:15-21

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Psalm 29

Psalm 40:1-11

Psalm 27:1, 4-9

Psalm 15

Psalm 112:1-9 (10)

Psalm 119:1-8

Psalm 119:33-40

Psalm 131

### Epistle Reading

Galatians 4:4-7 or Philipians

Revelation 21:1-6a

Ephesians 1:3-14

Ephesians 3:1-12

Acts 10:34-43

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16)

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23

1 Corinthians 4:1-5

### Gospel Reading

Luke 2:15-21

Matthew 25:31-46

John 1:(1-9), 10-18

Matthew 2:1-12

Matthew 3:13-17

John 1:29-42

Matthew 4:12-23

Matthew 5:1-12

Matthew 5:13-20

Matthew 5:21-37

Matthew 5:38-48

Matthew 6:24-34

## **Rev'd Dr Kirsty Thorpe**

The Rev'd Dr Kirsty Thorpe was inducted as Moderator of the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church on 2 July 2010.

The Moderator of the General Assembly is the national figurehead for the denomination, representing the United Reformed Church both internally and within the wider world, by chairing major meetings, visiting churches at home and abroad, and offering worship, teaching and pastoral care. Kirsty is serving alongside Mrs. Val Morrison until July 2012.

Talking about being the first joint post holders, Kirsty and Val both acknowledge that it's a journey into the unknown, sharing the view that "There's no blueprint for this - it's exciting and a bit scary and we're being challenged to feel our way into this new way of working ..."

### **Kirsty's hopes and plans for the next two years**

Kirsty has bold hopes for her two years as moderator, saying: "I want to encourage the Church to recognize itself as being part of a bigger world; to move away from too much introspection and to raise its head above the parapet and be seen to be a radical voice in the world. God is out there, doing all kinds of things in all kinds of places. God is not limited to the Church and we shouldn't be either."

On a day to day level Kirsty is planning to combine Sunday visits and ceremonial duties with weekday visits where she can get alongside people and see what's happening at the grass roots level saying: "Encouragement, recognition of one another's stories and recognition of those who are doing sacrificial things in ministry are important opportunities available to the moderator, and I want to make the most of them."

Kirsty says she sees the moderator as someone who embodies the things the URC values and wants to focus on at any given time in our denomination's journey with God; someone who listens and who tells stories based on where they've been and where they're going to. She concludes: "For me a moderator is the person who may say 'This is how others see us. Do we need to change the way we look and behave so they understand us better?'"

### **Key interests**

The importance of effective church communications

Women – their struggles in the Church and in wider society, both historically and today. Describes herself as a feminist.

Spirituality – Christian listening, Ignatian prayer and involvement with the Focolare Movement (an international ecumenical organisation with roots in Italian Catholicism).

Church History – how to reclaim parts of the church's story that are less well known, particularly that which relates to women

Social justice at home and abroad – a keen supporter of Christian Aid.

Ecumenical working – Kirsty says she is "intrigued and challenged by the prospect of a joint Methodist Council/Mission Council meeting in September 2010."

Mission and renewal – particularly keen to "stirring us up to expect new things from one another ..."

## **“COME AND SEE”**

I would like to invite your church to visit a major art collection which is coming to Chislehurst next autumn.

A selection from The Methodist Church Collection of Modern Christian Art, hailed as the best collection of modern Christian art outside the Vatican, will be displayed at Chislehurst Methodist Church from 17 September to 29 October. “Come and See” will be open for six weeks during which time we are inviting groups and individuals to view the 22 paintings we will have on display, in our newly refurbished church.

Admission will be free and we can provide a variety of facilities for you; refreshments, lunches, teas, speakers, as well as the usual literature which accompanies major exhibitions.

I would be pleased to discuss a visit by your organisation with you. The church is well located and we have our own car park, which is able to accommodate coaches.

For a taste of the collection, please see:

<http://www.methodist.org.uk/index.cfm?fuseaction=opentogod.content&cmid=28>.

Regards

Anthony Faulkner

Church Administrator

Chislehurst Methodist Church

[chismch@talktalk.net](mailto:chismch@talktalk.net)

020 8468 7695 (answerphone outside office hours)

## **Carol Singing**

On a cold and frosty evening in early December when all the schools were closed due to the snow, girls from Emmanuel's Brownies and Guides entertained the residents at Wingfield Court. They performed a nativity play, sang carols and a seasonal poem.

Thank you to all the girls who managed to get to the home.

The evening raised over £100 for Action for Children.

*Pam & Maggie*



## Coffee Morning

Every Friday in the Church Hall from 10.30am to Noon. Come in for a coffee & biscuit and have a chat with friends. On fine days there may also be a bric-a-brac stall outside. All for church funds.

## Cleaning Rota

Week ending:

Jan	1	Jenny & Peter
	8	Judith & Tony
	15	Jean, Maureen & Pete
	22	Mandy
	29	Alicia & Carol
Feb	5	Jenny & Peter
	12	Judith & Tony
	19	Jean, Maureen & Pete
	26	Mandy
Mar	5	Alicia & Carol

## **CLEANING ROTA**



## Sunday Coffee

Coffee will be served in the hall after morning service every Sunday. All are welcome



January	2	Maryia & Ann
	09	Pat & Janet
	16	Rene & Judith
	23	Jenny & Eileen
	30	Maureen & Valerie
February	6	Roger & Christine
	13	Freda & Judith
	20	Scouts
	27	Jenny & Eileen

## Lunch

You are invited to Lunch at 1pm on **Wednesdays** 19<sup>th</sup> Jan and 16<sup>th</sup> Feb in the Green Room. Come and enjoy a meal followed by tea or coffee in a friendly atmosphere.

Please note, after many years we have had to raise the price to £3 min! Its still a bargain!



## **New Eltham Methodist Church**

### **January Pantomime**

### **"Toad On The Rebound"**

A Toadally different and highly amusing re-working of the much-loved "Wind In The Willows" story.

As you may know our church members combine with members of our two church drama/musical theatre groups to put on a panto each January, and thereby to raise funds for the church and community centre, and our annual Good Cause (this year it is Demelza Hospice Care for Children).

**8th January 2011 at 2.30 pm & 6.30pm**  
**14th January 2011 at 7.30 pm**  
**15th January 2011 at 2.30 pm & 7.30pm**

**Tickets £7.00**

**Box Office 020 8851 9881**

**[www.newelthampantomime.co.uk](http://www.newelthampantomime.co.uk)**

## **Friendship Club**

At our November meeting Frank Midgeley gave a talk on "Wainwright of the Lake District". Before talking about Wainwright, Frank recounted his own experience last year when, at 80+, he climbed Haystacks with his son and grandson. It was a remarkable achievement even though Frank has always been a keen walker. He provided proof of this event in the shape of a printed book of photographs, many showing a wind-swept Frank against stunning views of valleys and rocky hills.

Wainwright was a man dedicated to the Lake District, his handwritten notes and sketch maps of his walks over the Fells are available in attractive books. We had a very pleasant and informative evening.

Our traditional December meeting is a popular event when we entertain ourselves with seasonal poems and stories, carols and mince pies, but unfortunately this year it was not possible to meet owing to the vast quantities of snow which kept many of us indoors for several days. This was a real disappointment - particularly as we don't meet in January.

I hope you will all have a happy Christmas and New Year, and look forward to Wednesday, 2nd February to listen to Dave Dunster.

*Jenny Scopes*

## **URBAN CHURCHES SUPPORT GROUP**

- working in Thames North and Southern Synods.

Next CHURCH SECRETARIES' CONSULTATION  
SATURDAY 30th OCTOBER 10.00 - 1.30  
at CROSSWAY URC, Elephant and Castle

( How to encourage our church to become a volunteer magnet: sharing stories and reflecting on eldership issues )

TELLING STORIES ABOUT THE URC  
SATURDAY 4th DECEMBER 10.00 - 1.30  
at Grange Park URC, Leyton

( Building a multicultural church on the ethos and principles of the URC, especially helpful to members and elders who are new to the URC )

ABIDE WITH ME  
SATURDAY 19th FEBRUARY 10.30 - 15.00  
at WEST KILBURN URC/CHURCH of ENGLAND  
( Inter-faith Centre)

(Telling and listening to stories of chronic illness - supporting each other and practical ideas for local churches )

CAUSE for CELEBRATION  
SATURDAY 2nd APRIL - 10.00 - 15.00

For further information about any of these events please contact :  
Sandra Ackroyd - 22 Scarborough Road, Leytonstone, E11 4AL  
020 8279 0533 - email: [ackroyds22@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ackroyds22@hotmail.co.uk)

## **Sidcup Literary and Scientific Society**

The next meetings will be

- Jan 11<sup>th</sup> Music and Dance Display  
Bird College
- Jan 25<sup>th</sup> "Of trains and buttered toast" a personal appreciation of Sir John Betjeman  
Rev. Stephen Sealy
- Feb 8<sup>th</sup> Flooding in the Thames Estuary – Past, Present and Future  
The Norman Worley Memorial Lecture  
Prof Jim Hall
- Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> A Demonstration – "The Wonder of Watercolours"  
Mary Farrier  
Emmanuel Church Hall 7.30pm

Single lecture £3

Annual membership £15

## Letter from Northumberland

Dear everyone,

We have had such an eventful year that I decided to put a letter in our Christmas cards this year to bring you up to date. The two main events were Ian's wedding to Kay Robinson on 2<sup>nd</sup> May and Fiona's marriage to Dan Carter on 31<sup>st</sup> July. Kay is a chartered accountant working for Costa Coffee, and Dan is a media analyst. (extra points if you know what that is.)

Ian and Kay had their wedding at a swish Hotel/Conference Centre called Horwood House near their home in Milton Keynes. They pretty well organised the whole thing themselves, and did a great job, so all we had to do was turn up looking the part. All of the family were there and we had a wonderful day.

Fiona wanted her wedding to be based on our home, so they chose a venue two miles from home in a place called Ridley Hall. It is a beautiful mansion house that formerly belonged to the Bowes-Lyon family, relatives of the late Queen Mother, but it is now County Council property. Of course with help from Dan's parents we played a bigger part in helping them organise their day, and like the first wedding it was a memorable and joyous day for us and all our family.

After the excitement of the wedding Anne and I had a short holiday in Scotland and in September we flew to Malta for a week to get a bit of sunshine. Health wise it has not been a very good year for me. I have had a persistent cough for a long time and it has finally been diagnosed as bronchiectasis. It has responded to treatment, but in course of investigation the doctors have also identified a low level of cortisol which they are now starting to treat with cortisone and get a full diagnosis. The last few months have left me feeling a bit low and lacking energy, but I am expecting to feel much better now that I have some diagnoses and treatment has started.

We are looking forward to visits from the family at Christmas, (though not all at once). The early onset of winter has hit us quite hard here. At the time of writing I have dug out the car and cleared snow from the drive four times. Please no White Christmas!

We hope you are well and send our best wishes for Christmas and the coming year.

Yours, Keith and Anne Brunton

*Olive Lewis thought it would be nice to share this letter with everyone.*

**What we are is God's gift to us  
What we become is our gift to God.**

## Letter from Dorset

“Yer’tis” as they say in this part of the Country and first of all we apologies for not writing something for your November/December edition of The Outlook magazine, but truth to tell we have been quite busy lately not only with normal voluntary work for local charities, but also by our attendance at meetings in connection with the ongoing situation within our Methodist Circuit, where some very serious and far reaching decisions have had to be made.

The ‘Good News’ is that at long last the Planning Committee of our local Poole Town Council, has given the go-ahead for the plans to virtually rebuild our church in Poole High Street, which is situated on an extremely important site in the middle of the town. It is going to be a very costly project to undertake with an initial figure of £4 million that has been quoted, and which will now mean that all our remaining Circuit churches will need to pull together in order to find ways and means to raise such a large amount.

The idea is to proceed on a ‘stage payment’ basis by first raising £100,000 so that ‘Phase One’ can be paid for in advance. That will be followed by other payments as work progresses in additional ‘phases’. All this will engage us in putting various schemes together to help fund-raise and to find some ‘sponsors’ likely to give grants, but if we fail to keep up the momentum then we shall be heading for problems.

The whole project will take several years to fulfil and you will need to realize that our Circuit has made this commitment after much thoughtful discussion and prayer and we now look to God and to his guidance for the future expansion of Methodism in Poole. We feel that we have made the right decision when one considers that not far away in the adjoining Bournemouth Circuit, they have in fact thrown in the towel and have sold off a landmark church near to the centre of the town which has now become a TESCO SUPERMARKET!

On top of all this, our Circuit Superintendent Minister has been holding meetings with the Superintendents in two nearby Circuits (Bournemouth & Wimborne) to discuss ways of carrying out a ‘Merger’ of all three Circuits sometime in 2011. The practicalities of such a move will entail a lot of ‘heart searching’. Other Ministers, Local Preachers and various Office Holders will also need to meet to talk about the situation in an endeavour to ascertain ‘who will be doing what in future’. Both of us hold various ‘posts’ in our own Circuit and have done so for many years, simply because no one wishes to take them over from us! However, that may well now happen and we dare to hope that we shall lose our jobs to others. So everything will be ‘Up for Grabs’ or so it would appear. Sadly such ‘Mergers’ between Circuits are happening throughout our Methodist Connexion and many re-designed Circuits will cover much larger areas of the country.

On a lighter vein, a couple of years ago our village Anglican church lost its Vicar to retirement and has been kept running by its Church Wardens up until last September. Then a replacement was ‘Licenced’ to act as Vicar following his three year stint as a Curate in Wiltshire. So we invited Alistair, the newly installed Vicar, and his wife, Catherine, to our home on 10th November for ‘Coffee & Chat’ about how both congregations can work further together and to strengthen the ‘bridge’ between us. We

are happy to say that it was a very fruitful meeting and we now look forward to future meetings to explore ways in which Methodists and Anglicans can work together for the common good in an attempt to encourage more people in the Village to come to church on a Sunday instead of rushing off to the Coast which is only a few miles down the road!

Otherwise we continue to uphold the name of Methodism in our Village Chapel, which as we write, is faced with a bill for £600 to repair two gas fired heaters as we are in the middle of winter! Never a dull moment!

We are yours because we are HIS

*John & Frances Russell*

### **Women's Hour**

#### January Meetings

- |    |                                        |
|----|----------------------------------------|
| 10 | Mrs J Howe, British Heart Foundation   |
| 17 | Rev. Jeanette Richardson               |
| 24 | Member's afternoon, games              |
| 31 | John Bowerman<br>Pianist Roger Chapman |

#### February Meetings

- |    |                                           |
|----|-------------------------------------------|
| 7  | Rev. David Gillman                        |
| 14 | Malcolm Moore<br>Guide dogs for the blind |
| 21 | Awaiting reply                            |
| 28 | Jennie Day<br>Marie Curie Foundation      |

### **Monthly Churches Together in Sidcup**

#### **Prayer Meeting every 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday**

**9 - 9.30 am. All welcome**

*Next Meeting is*

15 January – Holy Trinity, Hurst Rd

19 February – New Community Church, Station Rd

**The next CTIS General Meeting is at 8pm on Friday  
21<sup>st</sup> January at  
New Community Church, Station Rd**

# Dates For Your Diary

## JANUARY

Sat	1		
Sun	2	10.30 am Rev. Jeanette Richardson	Covenant Service
Mon	3	Women's hour 2.15 pm	
Tue	4	Craft Group 2.30 pm	
Wed	5		
Thu	6	Choir 8.00pm	
Fri	7	Coffee morning 10.30 am	
Sat	8		
Sun	9	10.30 am Rev. Malcolm Wright	Church Meeting after Service
Mon	10	Women's hour 2.15 pm	
Tue	11	Craft Group 2.30 pm	8.00pm Mission Committee
Wed	12		Men's Supper Club
Thu	13	Bells 10.30 am Choir 8.00pm	
Fri	14	Coffee morning 10.30 am	9.30am Social Committee meeting
Sat	15		
Sun	16	10.30 am Rev Barbara Calvert	Guides' Table Sale
Mon	17	Women's hour 2.15 pm	
Tue	18	Craft Group 2.30 pm	
Wed	19	Lunch in the Green Room 1.00 pm	
Thu	20	Choir 8.00pm	
Fri	21	Coffee morning 10.30 am	
Sat	22		
Sun	23	10.30 am Rev Dr Kirsty Thorpe	Church Anniversary
Mon	24	Women's hour 2.15 pm	
Tue	25	Craft Group 2.30 pm	
Wed	26		
Thu	27	Bells 10.30 am Choir 8.00pm	
Fri	28	Coffee morning 10.30 am	
Sat	29		
Sun	30	10.30 am Rev. Malcolm Wright	
Mon	31	Women's hour 2.15 pm	

# Dates For Your Diary

## FEBRUARY

Tue	1	Craft Group 2.30 pm	
Wed	2	7.30pm Friendship Group	
Thu	3	Choir 8.00pm	
Fri	4	Coffee morning 10.30 am	
Sat	5		
Sun	6	10.30 am	Mr Chris Price
Mon	7		
Tue	8	Craft Group 2.30 pm	
Wed	9		Men's Supper Club
Thu	10	Bells 10.30 am	Choir 8.00pm
Fri	11	Coffee morning 10.30 am	
Sat	12		
Sun	13	10.30 am	Rev. Malcolm Wright
Mon	14	Women's hour 2.15 pm	
Tue	15	Craft Group 2.30 pm	
Wed	16	Lunch in the Green Room 1.00 pm	
Thu	17	Choir 8.00pm	
Fri	18	Coffee morning 10.30 am	
Sat	19		
Sun	20	10.30 am	Rev David Gillman
Mon	21	Women's hour 2.15 pm	Outlook Copy due
Tue	22	Craft Group 2.30 pm	
Wed	23		
Thu	24	Bells 10.30 am	Choir 8.00pm
Fri	25	Coffee morning 10.30 am	
Sat	26		
Sun	27	10.30 am	Rev. Malcolm Wright
Mon	28	Women's hour 2.15 pm	

# Weekday Activities

Monday	2.15pm 5.45pm 6.30pm 7.30pm	Woman's Hour 3rd Sidcup Beavers 3rd Sidcup Cub Scouts 3rd Sidcup Scouts
Tuesday	2.30pm	Craft Group
Thursday	10.00am 8.00pm	Ladies Morning Club Choir
Friday	10.30am—noon 1.30pm 6.00pm 7.30pm	Coffee Morning Parents & Toddlers Club 6th Sidcup Brownies 4th Sidcup Guides



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