



NEWSLETTER

CHESSINGTON METHODIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Elizabeth Osei
Tel: 020 8241 7979

March 2016

Sunday Services 10.00am and 6.30pm
Family Services – 10.00am 6 March - Mothering Sunday
and 10.00am 28 March – Easter Day
Contemporary Service – 10.00am 20 March

Dear Friends,

HOPE AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL

As I read through one of Nick Fawcett's books, I came across one of his pieces of writing that speaks about life in the world today with all the uncertainties of life coupled with winter and Lent.

I felt it is worth sharing, so here it begins with a Bible verse:

“When it was the sixth hour, darkness fell over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour, Jesus cried out in a loud voice, ‘Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? meaning: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?’” (Mark 15:33)

Most of us are afraid of darkness. Probably due to some uncomfortable childhood experience we might have had, which lingers on till now and scares us when alone in it. It is not surprising that one thing we associate with God and one symbol used for Him more than any other is light. Psalm 27 says: ‘The Lord is my light and salvation, of whom shall I be afraid?’ And Psalm 36: ‘With you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.’

Scriptures assure us of God being our light to guide us. Though our lives may be filled with light, there are times also when life seems dark, bleak, grim like the winter darkness, chilly and forbidding; when even life experience makes us feel that God is far away. So we cry out in despair. What do we make of moments like those? Has God no place in them? Must we face them alone like Jesus felt on His Cross? Not if the words of the gospels concerning the death of Christ Jesus are to be believed. For there, we read how darkness descended on the land as Jesus was hung on the cross. It seemed, even to Jesus, as though God had abandoned Him. Yet, in reality, God was present. It was there that God was supremely and astonishingly at work, offering Himself for the life of the world, paying the price of sin that would set us free.

Though darkness seemed to have overtaken the world, the reality was that the light of God's love was shining brighter in the tunnel of darkness than ever and nothing was going to overcome it. This provides us the assurance that hope in the form of light, awaits us through Jesus' resurrection.

‘There are times when, for Christians as much as any other, life seems dark and God seems far away. But we must never feel that God is far away and has forsaken us, for sometimes it is in the darkest moments that God is present.’

As Spring follows Winter, so does the grace and mercy of God in Christ Jesus follow all those who call upon Him.

Have a blessed Easter.

Elizabeth

BETWEEN FRIENDS

Congratulations and Happy Birthday to Maria Beazley-Long who celebrated her 100th Birthday on 27 February – and featured in the Surrey Comet on 4 March!

We remember all friends who are not well or able to be with us at this time, and assure them of our continuing concern, and our prayers.

ENVELOPE SCHEME The envelopes for the next twelve months have now been distributed. If you do not make your contribution to the church in this way, and would like to know more, please see Linda Davis. Income Tax payers who would like to know more about Gift Aid, please contact Daphne Baker.

COFFEE BAR BIBLE STUDY on Fridays at 10.00am. All are welcome to join this meeting. Details on notice boards.

Tuesday mornings 10.30am to 12 noon in the Coffee Bar – FRIENDSHIP GROUP – do come and join us for coffee and a chat.

LENT BIBLE STUDY – Thursday evenings at 8.00pm. “Can we Build a Better World?” Contact Elizabeth or Celia for details and see the weekly notice sheet.

We have started collecting shoeboxes for Love in a Box. These can be left on top of the pigeon-holes – we need lots, so please keep them coming. Thank you. Ann and Geneen

LADIES OPEN GROUP – 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 8.00pm
Mar 8 Audrey's Bird Quiz; 22 Easter Evening

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP – Monthly on the 2nd Wednesday at 2.00pm
Mar 16 Quiz by Bernard

E-mail and Internet contact addresses – Church Office office@chessingtonmethodist.org.uk
Weekly News mpharvey2000@yahoo.co.uk
Newsletter patricia@watsonkt9.f9.co.uk or newsletter@chessingtonmethodist.org.uk
Church Web site www.chessingtonmethodist.org.uk (webmaster@chessingtonmethodist.org.uk)

DIARY DATES

Mar 4 10.15am Women's World Day of Prayer service at St. Paul's - Everybody welcome
6 10.00am Mothering Sunday – Family and Parade Service
7 2.00pm Daffodil Day Service at Westminster Central Hall
24 7.45pm Maundy Thursday Ecumenical Service at St Mary's
25 9.30am Good Friday Service at our Church followed by Walk of Witness to St. Paul's
7.00pm Faure's Requiem at St. Paul's

27 8.00am Easter Day Holy Communion followed by Breakfast,
10.00am Family Service where donations of Easter Eggs will be received for the Royal Marsden Hospital

Ascension Day - 5 May 7.45pm – Ecumenical Service at Chessington Methodist Church
Summer Fair 11 June – Church Anniversary 12 June

The next Newsletter is the April one. Copy date - 19 March. Material to the Editor, Pat Watson, by this date please, to ensure publication on 28 March. Please forward Diary Dates for 2016 as soon as possible to ensure maximum publicity.