

**MOTTINGHAM METHODIST CHURCH  
MESSENGER  
DECEMBER 2018**



**PEACE**  
and Goodwill



Dear Friends

How is your advent going? Advent is the season in the Christian calendar that calls on the faithful to take time out in our busy lives to reflect and ask the question; Are we ready for the return of our King Jesus? If needs be, Advent is a time to adjust our lives accordingly to be ready to be a citizen of a new kingdom shaped by God.

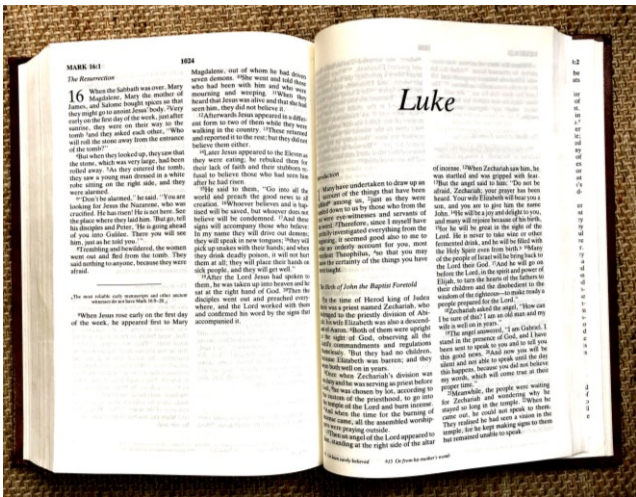
Well all this talk of a coming King and Kingdom where there is peace, joy and healing has invited some through the ages to scoff; 'Isn't this just pie in the sky when you die?' or in other words a total waste of time focusing on the future instead of living life for today.

It's my firm belief that Advent doesn't just focus us on unseen things to come but has a positive effect on our here and now. For example: Imagine two people living in two houses next door to each other. The TV news has just reported a terrible storm is coming and there maybe transport disruption, electricity and service failures. One house holder buys candles, stocks up on tinned goods, buys a gas stove and visits the library for a few books encase the power goes off and there is no TV or social media to pass the time on. The other householder does nothing but sit biting his fingernails and worrying about all the terrible things a storm brings. They both face the same challenge but householder one seems more at peace than his neighbour. Preparation enables us to relax a little to face whatever comes with peace that goes beyond human understanding. Philippians 4 verse 7

We live in times that often look like a storm approaching. It seems every time we turn on the TV or open a paper that things are getting worse whether it's terrorism, environmental issues, fires raging in California, or refugees in crisis (to name but a few!). We don't have to go abroad to find news that makes us anxious. In our own communities we face a dramatic increase in knife crime among our young people, new benefit measures that hurt many families or the saga of Brexit. Just these are enough to leave us wondering where the future lies.

Yet the Advent promise is that God will act when the time is right and Jesus will be the just King in this new Kingdom. We can find peace in the storm by getting ready for this new King (which we celebrate at Christmas.) May your Advent preparation come to you as a blessing and a time of refreshing. And may we all know that Blessed assurance that we are loved by a God who keeps his promises. (StF 548)

Every blessing, Terry.



## AND THERE WERE SHEPHERDS!

Luke's story of the birth of Jesus is brilliantly told - the angel's visit to Mary to tell her she would be mother of the long-promised Messiah, the old priest in the Temple told by another angel that his wife would have a son to

be called 'John', who would prepare the people of Israel for that event, and then Mary and Joseph making the 60 mile journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem, as required by the Roman census. When they got there, no room at the inn, and they settled instead for a convenient stable, where Mary gave birth to a boy child.

Suddenly, Luke changes the tone. 'And there were shepherds ...' - that's what he actually wrote, just like that. 'And there were shepherds', doing exactly what shepherds do, looking after their flocks by night. But this night was different: yet another angelic message - a call to abandon their sheep and go into Bethlehem to see the baby Messiah.



They were given directions and a 'sign' to identify Him. He would be lying in a feeding trough. Well, at least they would recognise that.

And why the shepherds in this glorious story of our salvation? Because the event needed witnesses, and the chosen witnesses would be this bunch of scruffy, smelly shepherds straight from the sheep-pen. Nothing could speak more eloquently of God's purpose than that. This was not a Saviour for the strong, rich and powerful, but for everybody. The carpenter and his wife guarded the Saviour of the world, and the very first witnesses were not kings or priests but a handful of shepherds.

David Winter



### **SATURDAY 8TH DECEMBER**

Crisis for Christmas Carol Singing from 10.30am to 11.30am outside the Co-op on Kimberidge Road. Beverages will be available in St Edwards afterwards

### **SUNDAY 16TH DECEMBER**

Carols by candle light at Mottingham Methodist Church at 4.00pm

### **SUNDAY 16TH DECEMBER**

Christingle, at St Andrew's Church at 4.00pm

### **WEDNESDAY 19TH DECEMBER**

The Mottingham Village Concert Band Christmas Concert in Maryfield Hall - Our Lady Help of Christians Church from 8-10pm. This is the band's annual contribution to family, friends and local community.

### **THURSDAY 20TH DECEMBER**

Ecumenical Carol Service at St Andrew's Church at 7.30pm.

### **SUNDAY 23RD DECEMBER**

Candlelit Carol Service at St Edwards Church, Mottingham at 6pm

..... **AND**

### **TUESDAY 11TH DECEMBER**

**Good Companions** will celebrate Christmas with Carols at 10.30am followed by a buffet lunch starting



### **WEDNESDAY 12TH DECEMBER**

**Community Christmas lunch** at 12.30 am

**!Limited tickets still available at the lunch on the 5<sup>th</sup>!**

## DIARY OF CHURCH SERVICE PREACHERS

### DECEMBER 2018

**Sunday 2nd December at 10.30am – Messy Church Christmas**

This is preceded by breakfast at 9.30am.

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 10.30am – Maggie Ayres**

**Sunday 16th December at 10.30am – NO SERVICE**

**Sunday 16th December at 4.00pm – Carols by Candlelight**

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> December at 10.30am – Joan Mayes**

**CHRISTMAS DAY at 9.30am – Family worship - Terry Wright**

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> December at 10.30am – Terry Wright**

Sevice of Holy Communion



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### **Messy Church**

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> December at 10.30am: Theme - Where is Jesus?

This is preceded by breakfast

### **Prayer meeting**

Wednesday 5th December at 7.30pm: At the house of Eddie and Dallas Green

### **Good Companions**

Tuesday 11th December 10.30am: (Details above)

### **All Sorts Craft Group**

**CANCELLED:** See you on the 22<sup>nd</sup> January!

### **Community Lunch**

**CANCELLED** from 19th Dec to 9th January inclusive.

### **Saturday Youth Club**

Every Saturday from 7-10pm for 9-14 year olds

## MONTHLY ACTIVITIES IN THE CHURCH

-  **1ST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 10.30am:**  
Messy Church - This is preceded by breakfast
-  **1ST WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT 7.30pm**  
Prayer Meeting at Eddie and Dallas's home
-  **2ND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 10.30am**  
Good Companions
-  **4TH TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 10.30 - 11.30am**  
All sorts craft group
-  **EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 12.30pm**  
Community Lunch
-  **EVERY SATURDAY FROM 7 - 10pm**  
Saturday Youth Club - for 9 - 14 year olds

**CHRISTMAS SHOPPING? ONE MORE CHANCE TO TRY A CHRISTMAS FAYRE!**

St. Edward's Christmas Fair 1st December - from 11.00am

**CHURCHES TOGETHER IN MOTTINGHAM BIBLE STUDY AND PRAYER MEETING**

**CANCELLED.** A lent series is planned for 2019

**SUNDAY 13TH JANUARY**

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity service: 3.00pm in St Edwards Church.

**FRIDAY 1ST MARCH**

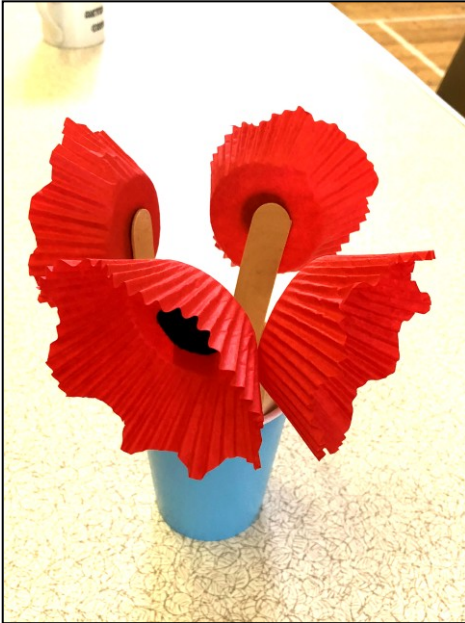
Women's World Day of Prayer: 11.00am in St Edwards Church followed by the community lunch.

**!** *Looking ahead*



# ONCE A MONTH CONGREGATION CALLED MESSY CHURCH

## WE WILL NOT FORGET



100 years ago  
World War  
One ended  
but not  
before Over  
900000  
people had  
died to keep  
us free. We  
remembered



that Jesus said  
love than laying  
friends (John 13  
that was made at  
us remember the  
But we also  
sacrifice Jesus  
set us free from  
sin, and the  
the Last Supper to



that no man has greater  
down his life for his  
verse 15). Everything  
the tables was to help  
sacrifices of the war.  
remembered the  
made when He died to  
the consequences of  
importance he gave at  
remembering His



sacrifice.

(1 Corinth  
11 verses  
24 & 25).





## REVIEW OF REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 2018

### 'Lest we forget!'

The remembrance service took place on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at the forecourt of Warrs Harley Davidson shop, next to the war memorial in Mottingham SE9.

The service was Churches Together in Mottingham's chance to remember the 68 men from the Parish of Mottingham as well as the others who died in the great wars of our time.

The service was led by Rev Ian Walsh from St Andrews Church, and the music was provided by Mottingham Concert Band. At 11.00am there was a two minutes silence to remember those who died in the first and second world wars.

Half way through the service Councillor Will Rowlands, members from the different churches and individuals went over to the War Memorial to lay down poppy wreaths. One of the people to go and lay a wreath (marked with a red arrow below) was Chloe Green on behalf of Mottingham Methodist Church Messy Church which had made the wreath the week before. Chloe, Eddie's granddaughter was accompanied by her mother, Elaine Green. When all the wreaths had been laid, the representatives and the majority of those attending the service stood in a circle round the memorial to pay their respects. There were well over 200 people who attended the service.



The service ended with the National Anthem.

Emma Aldengard



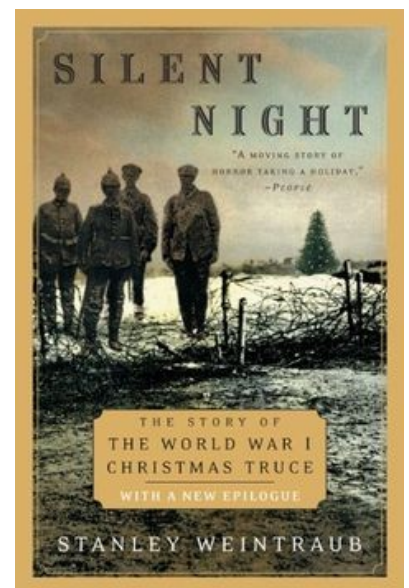


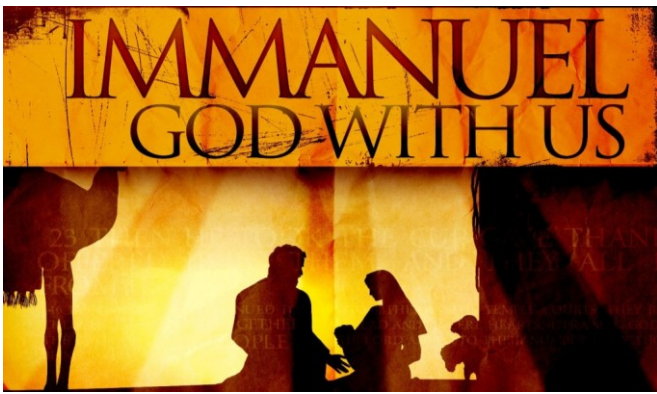
## PEACEFUL PRAISE ON A SILENT NIGHT

200 years ago this Christmas Eve a parish priest near Salzburg in Austria and his organist wrote a new carol for the midnight mass. The priest, Fr Joseph Mohr, provided the words in a poem he had recently written. The organist was Franz Xavier Gruber who created a tune of haunting beauty. The carol, *Stille Nacht*, was duly sung at the service.

We don't know what the congregation thought of it, though I bet someone said, 'I can't stand all these new tunes!' But the simple words and wistful melody were to become one of the world's favourite carols, translated into hundreds of languages, 'Silent Night' as we know it.

My father told me of his experience in the First World War, when on Christmas Day the British troops heard the sound of German soldiers singing *Stille Nacht*. They responded with Silent Night, and the sacred words echoed across the blood-stained no man's land. It is a carol that breathes peace, quite unlike the traditional ones that stir us to action - 'O come all ye faithful', 'Hark the herald angels sing'. This German song is about the infinite peace of nativity - Mary pondering her heart all that was happening and the shepherds returning to their fields. The birth of this royal baby went largely unnoticed. There were no crowds, no cheering, and no processions. But for two centuries people have sung this precious song of peace to recall that silent and holy night.





'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" - "God with us".

A friend of mine was diagnosed recently with breast cancer. A bright, vivacious lady in her fifties, she took the devastating diagnosis really well, but when the time came for her mastectomy, she understandably began to feel very nervous.

Sitting with her husband in the hospital cubicle awaiting the operation she experienced for the first time ever a panic attack. She breathed slowly in and out to reduce her fear and offered the only prayer that came to her mind: 'God is with us, God is with us.' She repeated the words under her breath, asking that God would give her a sign of His presence to reassure her.

Just at that moment there was some noise from the next cubicle. A doctor had arrived to see the patient. He introduced himself like this. 'Hello, my name is Doctor Emanuel and my name means 'God is with us'.' My friend turned to her husband, amazed, and asked him, 'Did you hear that?' He said he did and was also amazed at the wonderful reassurance from God.

When the nurse came in to attend to her, my friend asked, 'Who was the doctor just now in the next cubicle?' The nurse replied, 'I've no idea, I've never seen him on this ward before.' This only added to their sense of wonder at the intervention of God. The sign of His presence continues to encourage her - and others - throughout her long treatment.

Christmas reminds us that God stepped into our world, and became a human being, born as a baby at Bethlehem. In Jesus, God is with us, and He continues to come to us in our times of need, bringing us peace and reassurance. Remember, whatever situation you find yourself in, you are never alone. Jesus, our Emmanuel, is always with us. He will never leave us or forsake us (Hebrews 13:5).

*Tony Horsfall*

## THE MANGER

by Nigel Beeton

A simple trough for feeding stock  
Had stood, for many years,  
As humble as the wint'ring flock  
Besmirched by filthy smears.

This manger mean inspired no thought  
As day succeeded day,  
Save by the stable lad who sought  
To fill it up with hay

And yet this old and dirty thing  
That stood unloved, unknown  
Became a bed for God the King.  
A trough became a throne!

And men have sung two thousand times  
About this manger poor.  
And poets build their Christmas rhymes  
Upon that stable floor.

For God can use the meanest tools -  
He'll use your heart or mine -  
He moves outside our human rules  
To work his plan divine!

### PRAYER REQUESTS

There is a note book at the rear of the Church for your use if you or someone you know would like to be remembered in prayer by the Church whether anonymously or by name.

If it's easier to leave a note please do leave it in an envelope in the Church.

### WE PRAY FOR

Terry Wright  
Maureen and her partner, Roy  
and the family  
James  
Janet  
The Community Lunch  
The Children's Saturday Club  
Messy Church  
Good companions and the  
Craft Group

## IN AND AROUND MOTTINGHAM

### MOTTINGHAM LIBRARY IN DECEMBER



#### ADULT CREATIVE CHRISTMAS CARD MAKING

Weds 5<sup>th</sup> December 10.45-11.45. Join our origami expert in making creative cards

**COFFEE MORNING:** Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 10.30-12 noon. Join us for our special Christmas coffee morning with songs and entertainment and special guests, Dorset Rd Infants.



**ARMCHAIR WALK:** Friday 21st December 6.15-7.45  
'Corridors of Power' Join Chris on an armchair walk down Whitehall

#### BROMLEY AND GREENWICH COUNCILLORS' SURGERIES

**Bromley:** normally from 6.45-8.00pm on the first Tuesday of the month.

**Greenwich:** normally from 7pm-8pm on the last Friday of the month

### MOTTINGHAM METHODIST CHURCH NOTICE BOARD

#### CONTACT:

The Minister: Revd. Terry Wright: Telephone: 01689 822518  
Please Note: The minister's normal day off is a Friday.

**ADDRESS:** 62 Mottingham Road, Mottingham, SE9 4QR

#### THE CHURCH WEB SITE:

Church information is available on the WEB site

Log in to: <http://www.mottinghammethodistchurch.org.uk>.

#### THE CHURCH AND CHURCH HALL FOR HIRE

Mobile Contact: 07757 717399. **Note:** the web calendar shows when the hall is not available.



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