

**MOTTINGHAM METHODIST CHURCH  
MESSENGER  
FEBRUARY 2019**



*We Love  
because  
he first  
loved  
us*

1 John 4 verse 19



## ASPECTS OF ROMANTIC LOVE

God obviously approves of romance - after all, putting Adam and Eve alone together in the Garden of Eden was His idea. And romance - love between a man and a woman - has been around ever since.

The history of the Israelites began with three great romances: Abraham and Sarah. Isaac and Rebekah. Jacob and Rachel. The on-going history of Israel was deeply affected by later romances: Esther and King Xerxes, David's love affair with Bathsheba, and Solomon's marriage to hundreds of foreign wives. There is even an entire book in the Old Testament devoted to the love of a man and woman: the Song of Solomon!

When we reach the New Testament, we find real love between Joseph and Mary (even when Joseph thought Mary had been faithless, he did not want to harm her). St Paul, though himself a bachelor, nevertheless spent a lot of time urging Christians to love and be kind and faithful and considerate to their spouses. He even wrote 1 Corinthians 13 - the great love chapter that is read at millions of weddings worldwide 2000 years later.

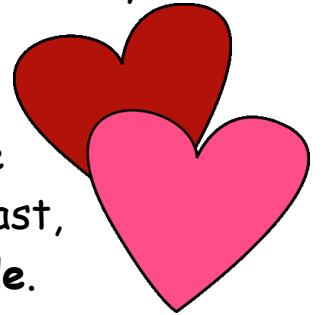
Down the centuries ever since, romantic love has been critical in shaping history (Anthony and Cleopatra), in shaping cultural ideals (King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table). Romance remains as prominent now as it ever was, added to which we have films, television and drama all flying the romantic flag. Wherever we look, whatever we do, romance continues to permeate every aspect of life.

The old adage that 'love makes the world go round' is irrefutable - and it also seems to make the galaxies go round, too. (Think of the Star Wars films.)

Certainly, romance is alive and well - last year in Britain we spent about one billion pounds on Valentine's Day, sending each other cards, flowers, presents, and going out to restaurants.

And what of the future? Well, just as the Bible begins with a love story, so it ends with one. *And you are involved!* For actually the greatest Love Story of all time is that between God and His people.

Christ is described in Revelation as our heavenly Bridegroom, and the Church is His beloved Bride. He has given us the most expensive present of all - Himself. And, just as in all the best romances, the story will end with the bride and groom together at last, so at the End of Time, **Christ will return for His Bride.**



## WALKING IN LOVE

**'Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and live [walk] a life of love...' Ephesians 5 verse 1.**

Walking is one of Paul's favourite images to describe the Christian life. In Ephesians Paul uses it to describe our transformation from walking 'in transgressions and sins' to walking in 'good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do'. We are to walk daily in a way that reflects our new humanity in Christ.

Paul calls us 'dearly loved children', and says that in turn, we must now 'walk in love'. We've been adopted into God's family, and are now to develop the family likeness, as we imitate our Father. And so, no more telling lies, hostility, stealing, unwholesome talk, bitterness and anger. Instead, we are called to be honest in our work, build up one another, and be kind and

compassionate. Such a love goes to the heart of the gospel, patterned as it is on the supreme example of Christ's own self-giving for us.

That's why the walking metaphor is so apt. Walking suggests a regular pattern – ongoing, rhythmic, steady, almost unconsciously carried out – which takes place in the everyday where we live and work – in the home, at the office, on the school run, in the checkout queue. In such contexts, it's the consistent, everyday actions that make a difference, as we continue to walk step-by-step in our lifelong process of transformation into the likeness of Christ, through the ongoing work of the Spirit.

# DIARY OF CHURCH SERVICE PREACHERS

## FEBRUARY 2019

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> February at 10.30am:** Messy Church: *Terry Wright*  
Topic : The Tongue.

Messy Church is preceded by breakfast

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> February at 10.30am:** Service of Holy Communion:  
*Jacqueline Quarmby*

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> February at 10.30am:** *David Ball*

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> February at 10.30am** -*Deborah Spinks*



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Prayer meeting

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm: At the house of Eddie and Dallas Green (020 8617 0076).

### Good Companions

Tuesday 12 February at 10.30am: Quiz time.

### All Sorts Craft Group

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> February at 10.30am for one hour.

### Community Lunch

Every Wednesday at 12.30am

**Saturday Youth Club: THE CLUB IS CLOSED FROM SATURDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY UNTIL SATURDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> MARCH INCLUSIVE.**



### CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING:

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> February at 7.30pm in the church hall.

**!** *Looking ahead*

## **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER:**

Friday 1st March at 11.00am in St Edwards Church. Anyone who would like to stay on to St Edward's Friday Community Lunch is welcome. Price £3.50. If you hope to stay please notify Eddie Green before 26th February - 0208 617 0076

## **CHURCHES TOGETHER IN MOTTINGHAM LENT STUDY GROUP**

**Topic:** 'Ephesians'

**Dates:** will begin on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February at 8pm and meet on the following 5 Tuesdays of Lent.

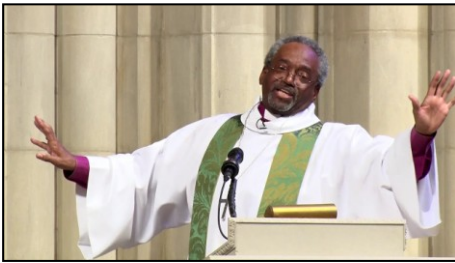
**Venue:** St Andrews Manse, 223 Court Road, SE9 4TQ

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## **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 EVERY 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



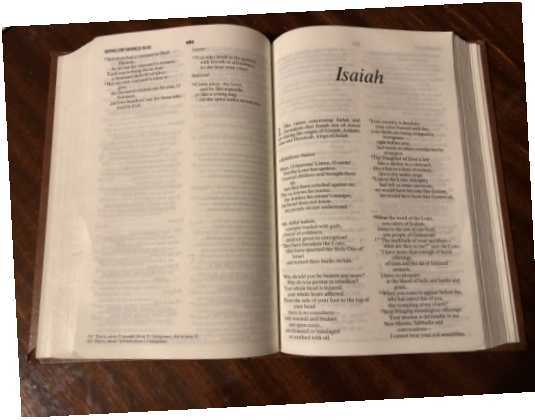


## LOVE IS THE WAY

The biggest Gospel audience ever!

When Bishop Michael Curry was asked to speak at the wedding of the year, he thought it was a joke. "I got the call from a member of my staff and I was like, 'Is it April? Is this an April Fool?'" It did seem unlikely - a charismatic African-American preacher in the pulpit at one of the Royal Family's most intimate occasions. But the wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle, the soldier prince and the Hollywood star, broke down cultural barriers in a way unprecedented for the House of Windsor. And the surprise guest star was this 65-year-old from Chicago, raised in the civil rights movement, with a message of love that touched so many in St George's Chapel, as well as those watching on televisions around the world. "The power of love is demonstrated by the fact that we're all here," said the Bishop, beaming. "Two young people fell in love and we all showed up." The groom laughed when he heard those words and held the hand of his bride, who looked delighted. The Queen and other senior Royals visibly wondered what to make of the Presiding Bishop and Primate of the Episcopal Church, who was dressed in familiar Anglican robes but talked with an unusual ease, fluidity and warmth.

He certainly had the potential to be controversial. The church he leads supports same-sex marriage. And the Bishop did not shy away from mentioning slavery, as the descendant of slaves himself. The pressure was on for him too; with a global audience of 2 billion, this was the biggest single presentation of the gospel in human history. But what a presentation it was - funny, generous, inclusive, human, twice as long as scheduled and unapologetically full-on about the reason everyone was there in church. "It's not just for and about a young couple, who we rejoice with. "It's more than that," he said, seizing his moment. **"The source of love is God, who is also the source of life, and he made that love known in Jesus."**



## THE BIBLE VERSE OF 2018

A Bible app, YouVersion, has named Isaiah 41 verse 10 as the most popular verse of 2018.

That verse has been posted, bookmarked, and highlighted more times than any other on the app (which

has been downloaded more than 350,000 times around the world).

Isaiah 41:10 reads:

**'So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.'** The verse also came top in Chile, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Perus, South Africa, Spain and the United States.

But in the UK, for 2018, we preferred Jeremiah 29 verse 11:

**'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'**

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## CHURCHES WELCOME UN CLIMATE SUMMIT'S OUTCOME

Churches and campaigners gave a cautious welcome to the recent UN Climate summit held in Poland.

Church leaders have taken an increasingly visible presence at the talks in recent years. The Vatican Secretary of State, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, in referring to the IPCC report, said: 'The information is even more worrying, given that the current commitments made by states to mitigate and adapt to climate change are not sufficient to achieve the objectives set by the Paris agreement.'



**OLD KENYAN PROVERB:** Treat the earth well, because it is not inherited from your parents, it is borrowed from your children.



## NEW ELTHAM METHODIST CHURCH, INVITES YOU TO:

**Four Weddings & a Funeral** on Wednesday 13th February at 7.00 pm.

Venue: 435 Footscray Road, London SE9 3UL; 020 8850 2960;  
www.necp.org.uk; [necpneweltham@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:necpneweltham@yahoo.co.uk);



## PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH IN NIGER: North West Africa

Attackers recently ransacked, looted and burned a church in the Kossey district of Niger's capital Niamey, leaving the building a charred shell, its floor covered with debris and broken and blackened musical instruments.

Niger's tiny Christian minority make up less than 1% of the population, but it had traditionally lived peacefully and unthreatened alongside the large Muslim majority. The rise of jihadist groups in the Sahel region led to an escalation in tension.

In 2015, more than 70 churches in Niger were destroyed by Muslim mobs. There were a number of further attacks on churches in 2017, which resulted in the deaths of four Christians and in January 2018, three church leaders were kidnapped.

### 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





## THINKING ABOUT THE PSALMS

Paul Hardingham continues to look at one of the best-loved books in the Bible.

### **Psalm 95's wise words on worship**

*'Man's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever'* (Westminster Confession). We are created to worship, but who or what will we worship? Psalm 95 invites us to worship God and to engage with His presence and power.

***Rejoicing in God (Verses 1 -5):*** *'Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord.'* (verse 1). In worship we are called to praise God through *'singing, shouting and extolling'*, because He is our king (verse 3), creator (verse 4) and rock (verse 1). He truly has the whole world in His hands, including you and me! Whatever our circumstances, worship enables us to acknowledge his sovereignty over our lives.

***Reverence before God (Verses 6 and 7):*** *'Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.'* (verse 6). Worship brings us into the place of submission before God. The New Testament word for worship means *'to prostrate'* oneself before Him. It challenges the counterfeit 'gods' in our lives eg. power, money, sex, work etc., as well as calling us to trust Him in whatever we are facing, as He is a loving shepherd who cares for us.

***Responding to God (verses 8-11):*** *'Today, if only you would hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as you did...in the wilderness,'* (verse 8 and 9). Our worship enables us to listen and hear God's voice. He has a fresh word to speak into our lives on a daily basis. Unlike the people of Israel in the wilderness, we are warned not to harden our hearts, but to embrace God's new life. The test of genuine worship is not whether it feels good or fits our taste, but does it lead to greater obedience in our lives.

Johann Sebastian Bach headed all his compositions with S.D.G. ie *'Soli Dei Gratia'*, which means ***'To God alone be the glory'***.



## ONCE A MONTH CONGREGATION CALLED MESSY CHURCH

January theme - Celebrating 'Epiphany':

**Epiphany is:**

- \* The day the three wise men saw a bright star and knew it was a sign that Jesus was born.
- \* The day Christians think about the gifts they can give to Jesus.
- \* The day Christians celebrate knowing that the bright star led the wise men to Jesus.

**Celebration in pictures:**

- \* Epiphany cake,
- \* Our gifts of ourselves and all we are.
- \* Following the route of the star.



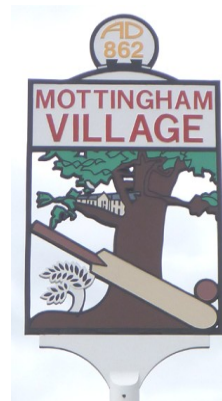
# IN AND AROUND MOTTINGHAM AND BROMLEY

## MOTTINGHAM LIBRARY IN JANUARY

**Bromley and Greenwich Councillors' Surgeries:**

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

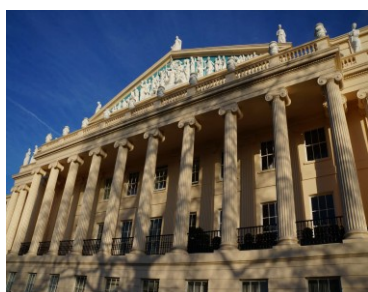
**Greenwich:** 7-8pm on the last Friday of the month.



### Coffee Morning

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 10.30-12 noon

Margaret Taylor will be enlightening us about the stories behind local street names.



### Armchair Walk

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February 6.15-7.30

Danes, Doctors and the Diorama.

Join Chris for an armchair walk in Regents Park.



## *Bromley Ecumenical Singers*

**SATURDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> MARCH AT 7.30 PM**

**SPRING CONCERT 2019:**

In memory of Peter Dulley and in aid of Médecins Sans Frontières

**Programme:** Rossini - Stabat Mater: Gounod: Messe Solennelle.

**Venue:** St Augustine's Church, Southborough Lane, Bromley

**Tickets:** 020 8697 0759



## MOTTINGHAM METHODIST CHURCH NOTICE BOARD

### CONTACTS:

**The Minister:** Revd. Terry Wright

Telephone: 01689 822518

Please Note: The minister's normal day off is a Friday.

**Senior Steward:** Dallas Green

Telephone: 020 8617 0076

**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



We are members of Parish Pump and The Association of Church Editors, two groups which provide material for Church Magazines.

We are registered with the National Messy Church organisation