

**MOTTINGHAM METHODIST CHURCH
MESSENGER
APRIL 2019**

**“But now is Christ risen
from the dead.”**





THE BEAUTY OF GOOD FRIDAY

Some of the most beautiful things in the world have an ugly side. What about the emperor penguin chick, nestling in a feathery pouch above its parent's feet? There's a lovely moment when mum and dad greet each other over the gaping beak of their fuzz-ball offspring. Heads bent together, making a heart shape in the air, we can't help seeing a reflection of our own ideals of love in the pair.

But the reality of what those birds are going through is even more gruelling than human parenthood. Father penguin has spent all winter sheltering the egg from freezing hurricane-force winds, while mother penguin was feeding at sea. When the chick hatched its parents started an exhausting game of tag, taking it in turns to walk across the ice and risk being eaten by leopard seals or killer whales in order to catch fish for their new offspring.

The living world is truly wonderful in so many ways, but the darker side of the picture is never far away. Creation is groaning (Romans 8:22), and waiting to be rescued. Enter Jesus, through whom all of creation was made. The king of the universe came to live with us, bringing His great love and wisdom to the human population of first-century Israel. The Creator was relating to His creation in a very personal way, and this could have been a totally beautiful picture.

But there is a horrifically ugly side of Jesus' story that threatens to obscure the beauty of what He did on Good Friday. It was a brutal and terrifying day when human sinfulness resulted in the Son of God being executed by His enemies, but thankfully there was much more to it than that. The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ set off a seismic wave of spiritual events whose effects are still rippling out across the world.

So that ugly day nearly 2,000 years ago is called 'good' because of what it achieved. Those who follow Jesus find their lives are changed for the better, even if their day-to-day existence may still be incredibly tough. When people come to understand what creation is for and who it belongs to, they can begin to serve and preserve the earth as they should. These things are only whispers of what is to come, but they give me hope for the future redemption of all Creation. I can choose to dwell on the beauty of Jesus' death because it was not the end of the story - the future beckons.

Dr Ruth Bancewicz,

(This article is extracted (with permission) from [New Life: Reflections for Lent](#), edited by Amy Robinson and Wendy H Jones (£7.99).

THE PASSION OF JESUS IN TRAFALGAR SQUARE



On Good Friday 20,000 people encompassing all faiths will gather to watch the Easter story in Trafalgar Square in central London.

The biblical story is spectacularly brought to life at the annual performance of 'The Passion of Jesus' returning for the tenth year. Witness this moving performance from the Wintershall Players, which commemorates the day Jesus was arrested, tried and

crucified. A cast of more than 100 actors and volunteers dressed in splendid costumes, as well as horses, donkeys and doves, come together to create an authentic scene in the famous square.

There are two 90-minute live performances at 12pm and 3.15pm, which are projected on to big screens so everyone in the Square can follow the action. The productions are completely free of charge - a gift to Londoners and visitors. No tickets are required



FOR YOU!

At Easter our thoughts are drawn to the death and resurrection of Jesus. These events are central to our faith, but sometimes we can over-complicate their meaning. The heart of it, though, remains very simple: Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and on the third day was raised to life (1Corinthians 15 verse 3).

HE DIED TO SHOW HIS LOVE FOR YOU. He gave his life as a demonstration or proof of the love He has for each one of us, no matter who we are or what we have done. He was motivated to lay down His life for us, not out of duty or obligation, but compassionate love. 'While we were still sinners, Christ died for us' Romans 5 verse 8

HE DIED TO SET YOU FREE. Sin has entangled every one of us. We are under its power and unable ourselves to loosen its grip. At the cross Jesus dealt with sin once and for all by dying in our place. Now, when we turn to Him for help, we can be released from the hold it has on us and find complete forgiveness.

HE DIED TO BRING YOU HOME. The Cross makes it possible for us to be reconciled to God. Like the prodigal son we were once far away from God, but now because we have been forgiven, we can return to our true home in God. A welcome awaits us, and a joy-filled reunion is possible.

I remember vividly a simple poster I saw on the notice board of our local Methodist Chapel. It had a silhouette of three crosses on a hill, and underneath the words, '**FOR YOU**'. Nothing fancy or clever, but a clear presentation of the Easter message, and it struck me deeply.

This Easter, why not think about these two simple words:

FOR YOU!



THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS

The Witnesses: Jesus' appearances after His resurrection

Mary Magdalene

Mark 16:9-11

John 20:10-18

Other women at the tomb

Matthew 28:8-10

Peter in Jerusalem

Luke 24:34;

1 Corinthians 15:5

The two travelers on the road
to Emmaus

Mark 16:12,13

10 disciples behind closed doors

Mark 16:14; Luke 24:36-43; John
20:19-25

11 disciples with Thomas

John 20:26-31; 1 Corinthians 15:5

7 disciples while fishing

John 21:1-14

11 disciples on the mountain

Matthew 28:16-20

A crowd of 500

1 Corinthians 15:6

Jesus' brother - James

1 Corinthians 15:7



The Learned judgement

Sir Lionel Luckhoo (1914 -1997)

The late international statesman Sir Lionel Luckhoo (of The Guinness Book of World Records fame for his unprecedented 245 consecutive defence murder trial acquittals) spent years reviewing the evidence for the resurrection of Jesus including that of the witnesses, and summarised his confidence in the strength of the case for the resurrection when he wrote, "I have spent more than 42 years as a defence trial lawyer appearing in many parts of the world and am still in active practice. I have been fortunate to secure a number of successes in jury trials and I say unequivocally the evidence for the Resurrection of Jesus Christ is so overwhelming that it compels acceptance by proof which leaves absolutely no room for doubt."



A TIME TO REJOICE

OPPORTUNITIES TO SHARE ACTIVITIES WITHIN OUR MOTTINGHAM CHURCHES' COMMUNITY

- **'JOURNEYS THROUGH THE BIBLE IN PICTURES'**

AT 4.00pm each Sunday in Lent St Edwards Church, 35 St Keverne Road, is holding a series of Lent talks in pictures.

- **MOTTINGHAM JOINT CHURCHES LENT STUDY GROUP**

Topic: 'Ephesians' based on the commentary by Tom Wright.

Dates: Each Tuesday until 16th April inclusive at 8.00pm.

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

- **GOOD FRIDAY WALK OF WITNESS**

On Good Friday 19th April at 10.50pm the Walk of Witness will commence from St Edwards Church and progress to Mottingham Methodist Church where, if the weather permits, there will be a service outside the church. The Mottingham Village Band will accompany the service. If the weather is poor the service will be held in the church.

Coffee and teas will be served in the church hall following the service.

- **GOOD FRIDAY CONCERT**

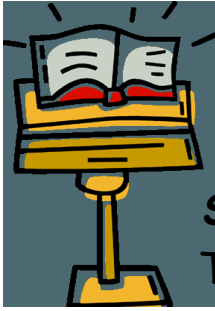
On Good Friday 19th April at 7.30pm The United Reformed Church, 1 Court Rd. SE9 5AD, is putting on a performance of Mozart's Requiem Mass

The performance is presented by the St. Cecilia Festival Chorus & Soloists with the Neri Ensemble.

The conductor is Jack Day.

EASTER SATURDAY CHILDREN'S MESSY CHURCH

St Edwards is holding a Messy Church on Easter Saturday, 20th April at 11.00am.



DIARY OF CHURCH SERVICE PREACHERS APRIL 2019

Sunday 7th April at 10.30am: Messy Church:

Theme: Easter

Messy Church is preceded by breakfast

Sunday 14th April at 10.30am: Sue Cope

Sunday 21st April at 10.30am: Chris Price

Sunday 28th April at 10.30am: Holy Communion and Pastoral service: Terry Wright



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Messy Church

Sunday April 7th at 10.30am: Theme - Easter

This is preceded by breakfast

Prayer meeting

Wednesday April 3rd at 7.30pm: At the house of Eddie and Dallas Green

Good Companions

Tuesday 9th April at 10.30am: Easter time the meaning of Lent

All Sorts Craft Group

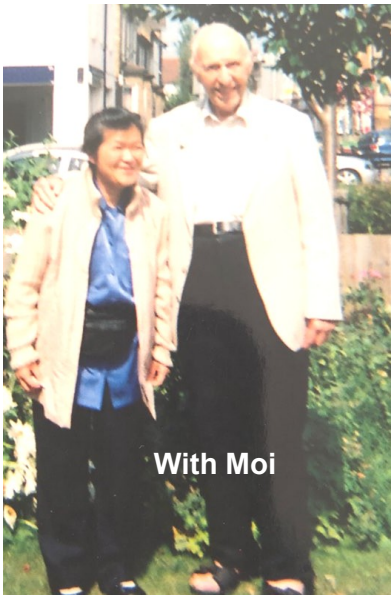
Tuesday 23rd April at 10.30am: **DO NOTE!** we have extended this to one and a half hours

Community Lunch

Every Wednesday at 12.30pm

Saturday Youth Club

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



TRIBUTE TO JOHN SHUTTLEWORTH

Our dear friend John passed away peacefully on 6th March aged 97.

His health had been failing over the last 6 months mainly due to a defective swallow which meant that food could often pass towards his lungs. Consequently his food had to be pureed. If you had known John for any length of time you would know that food was a major pleasure for him and he found that there was little pleasure in the pulped meals. He therefore continued to lose weight until in the last week of his life he could take only water and that in small sips.

John's most recent admission to hospital was difficult and he was very relieved to be discharged in mid February. He was very well cared for in those last days at the home of Richard, his long term partner in Meridian Records, with wonderful support from the health service.

John was born on 20th October 1921. He had a twin brother who died a number of years ago. He was a confirmed bachelor.

He went to Bristol University but his studies were cut short by military service in the Navy which took him round the world. When his service was ended he returned to University to complete his degree.

Having graduated he held various teaching posts as a specialist maths teacher and finished his teaching career with Eltham College where he taught from 1961 to 1982. I understand that under his tutelage most of his maths students achieved exceptional results, many finishing up with Oxbridge places.

In 1975 during his time at Eltham John started a recording business (what teacher today could start a business whilst still holding a full time teaching post?). Then, after retirement from Eltham College more time was given to Meridian Records which grew

to the extent John needed to recruit help. Even though Richard, had none of the attributes that John asked for he interviewed him, took him on and trained him. Richard now has an international reputation which had previously been John's. Meridian rarely uses a studio and specialises in recording in natural environments.

John was a long standing member of Mottingham Methodist Church and would usually be found on Sunday hiding behind the screen providing the music through the machine which he generously sourced for the church.

I got to know John well over the last few years of his life and found him to be a caring and generous friend which was a surprise because John often failed to show that side of his nature. Shopping for him was a challenge, because he made it so, as he seemed to make it his role to beat the system. A trip to the shops might mean that some things needed to come from LIDL's, some from Iceland and others from Sainsbury's (provided it was their "basics" brand). It was fun. We had good times together and enjoyed doing the "i" crossword puzzle each day. I shall miss him.

Eddie Green

IN AND AROUND MOTTINGHAM AND BROMLEY

MOTTINGHAM LIBRARY IN APRIL

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 10th April 10.30-12

'Sing a song of silliness' with Brian Bilson. He will create a song to a well known tune with audience participation



Armchair Walk: Friday 12th April 6.15-7.30pm

Gaslights, gratitude, Gilbert & Sullivan

Join Chris for a 2nd armchair walk near the Embankment.



PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS IN NORTH KOREA:

It is estimated that around 70,000 Christian believers are in North Korean prison camps. North Korea remains at the top of the Open Doors World Watch List as the country where it is most difficult to be a Christian. The sanctions imposed on North Korea were as much to do with human rights as their nuclear programme.

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 - 12.00MD**
All sorts craft group
-  **EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 12.30pm**
Community Lunch
-  **EVERY SATURDAY FROM 7 - 10pm**
Saturday Youth Club - for 9 - 14 year olds



How passion flowers got their name

Why is the passion flower known as the passion flower? This beautiful climbing plant that grows in many of our gardens is not native to the UK, but comes from South America. It was first discovered by Spanish

missionaries working there, centuries ago. Drawings were sent back to Europe, and in 1609 an Italian priest interpreted the flower to represent the crucifixion, otherwise known as the Passion.

He decided that the five petals and five sepals could represent the ten disciples who remained steadfast (Judas and Peter both abandoned Jesus). The corona could be seen as Jesus' crown of thorns. The stigma could be seen as the cross or nails, and the five stamens could be seen as the number of wounds Jesus received.



ONCE A MONTH CONGREGATION CALLED MESSY CHURCH

THEME: LENT, JESUS' TEMPTATIONS IN THE WILDERNESS



Because Jesus had fasted for 40 days the devil told Him that as the Son of God he should turn stones into bread.

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone. But by the words that come from the mouth of God'"

The devil told Jesus to bow down and worship him and he would give Him all the kingdoms of the world.

Jesus said "it is written: Worship the Lord your God and serve him only."



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

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

The head 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



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