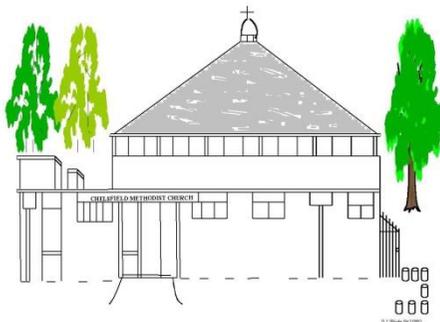


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The Manse, 20 Tower Road,
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NOVEMBER 2018

A Letter from The Manse

Dear Friends,

I stared intently at the mirror and with a beady eye surveyed my head to see if any more grey hair or new wrinkles had appeared since the last time I had stared intently at the mirror. By now some of you will be quoting Proverbs: Vanity! Vanity! But it was by no means vanity I was just curious on how my current season of life (mid-life) was coming on!

You see friends I love autumn, it's my favourite season: the incredible colours of falling leaves, harvests are gathered in at the end of the crop cycle, a change in the climate and even the smell of autumn so very different to that of summer.

I rejoice that in God's plan there are seasons, I rejoice that God has created a cycle of life and that autumn will lead to winter BUT that spring with its new life will come as will the warmth of the summer sun.

And as the seasons shift and change I am reminded that I am caught up in this plan of God. I was once a toddler full of mischief, I was once a student in school, later I was a soldier then a minister, now a

middle aged father trying his best to raise a family, and one day I will be an old man!

(But not quite yet cheeky young Declan!) And the on-set of the grey hairs and wrinkles and the falling leaves of autumn do not sadden me for they are part of the journey toward new life that God has planned for those who trust him!

I often read Ecclesiastes Chapter 3 for it is an honest acknowledgement of the reality of the seasons of our lives. The writer is not afraid to speak of death or even the days which bring challenge for they are part of life and there's no avoiding them. But Ecclesiastes contrasts these with the positive realities too because we also enjoy love, embrace, friendship and new beginnings.

So go and read Ecclesiastes 3 and celebrate the season you're in be you a whipper snapper or in your vintage! Then go out and kick up some fallen leaves and if you're feeling really brave jump up and down in a puddle because this is God's plan – A life of changing seasons.

Yours in Christ,

Terry



SERVICES IN NOVEMBER 2018

Sunday 4 th	10.30am	Mrs Pat Woodison Harvest Festival Stewards: Gordon & Gladys Handley
Sunday 11 th	10.30am	Mrs Kate Kwafoakoto Stewards: Rodney & Shirley Carder
Sunday 18 th	10.30am	Mrs Maggie Ayres Stewards: Audrey Lancaster & John Crowther
Sunday 25 th	10.30am	Revd. David Graham H.C. Stewards: Gordon & Gladys Handley

CHURCH CARE

A reminder of our rota for Church and vestry cleaning prior to:

November

4 th	Brenda
11 th	Paul
18 th	Rodney and Shirley
25 th	Gordon and Gladys
Dec 2 nd	Brenda

OUR PRAYER DIARY FOR NOVEMBER 2018

Taken from the **Methodist Prayer Manual** (available from Audrey Lancaster)

NOVEMBER 4 PRAYING WITH CHRISTIANS IN WEST AFRICA

We give thanks for new growth, numerically and spiritually, in the Methodist Church of **Equatorial Guinea**; for partnership with the Methodist Church in **Nigeria**, which has educated three new ministers at the Methodist Theological Institute based in Sangamu.

We pray for the restoration of peace after the failed coup in 2017 and for an end to the economic hardship caused by the fall in the price of oil.

Prospero David Sharp Superintendent – Methodist Church in Equatorial Guinea

NOVEMBER 11 PRAYING WITH CHRISTIANS IN THE CARIBBEAN

We pray for the districts of the Methodist Church in the **Caribbean and the Americas (MCCA)** affected in September 2017 by Hurricanes Irma and Maria which destroyed livelihoods, homes and Churches, taking a number of lives.

We pray that as the MCCA's districts continue their rebuilding they will be the hands and feet of Jesus in bringing the gospel of hope and good news to the thousands affected across several islands.

We also pray that the tourist industry will be fully restored so that the islands' economies will be revitalised, benefiting all the inhabitants.

World Church News

NOVEMBER 18 PRAYING WITH CHRISTIANS IN ASIA

We give thanks for the Methodist Church in **Indonesia**, which continues to flourish in the world's largest Muslim country. We give thanks for the country's two new Bishops and for the Methodist Church in Medan which is celebrating its 60th anniversary.

We give thanks for the freedom that the Churches of all denominations have in much of the country as they continue their work but are aware of the intimidation of Muslim extremists who challenge the Christian principles of these congregations. We ask that they may be given courage and kept safe.

We also pray that the Chinese and indigenous speaking branches of the Church will grow closer together and that their unity will be a witness to the transforming power of Christ in binding people of different cultures and races together in a common purpose.

Geoffrey Senior a former Mission Partner in Indonesia

NOVEMBER 25 PRAYING WITH CHRISTIANS IN NORTHERN EUROPE

We give thanks for the Churches in the **Nordic and Baltic** area of Europe; for those who minister to young people and those who have taken up the new challenge of ministering to Muslims. For those who have responded to the call to become Deacons and Ministers.

We pray for the Church in **Lithuania**, which is currently experiencing a significant lack of Pastors.

For young people who are called to start new faith communities and that our Churches become a tangible sign of hope, peace and love.

Christian Alsted, Bishop of the UMC in the Nordic and Baltic Area

History of the Poppy

During the First World War (1914–1918) much of the fighting took place in Western Europe. Previously beautiful countryside was blasted, bombed and fought over, again and again. The landscape swiftly turned to fields of mud: bleak and barren scenes where little or nothing could grow.

Bright red Flanders poppies (*Papaver rhoeas*) however, were delicate but resilient flowers and grew in their thousands, flourishing even in the middle of chaos and destruction. In early May 1915, shortly after losing a friend in Ypres, a Canadian doctor, Lt Col John McCrae was inspired by the sight of poppies to write a now famous poem called '**In Flanders Fields**'.

McCrae's poem inspired an American academic, Moina Michael, to make and sell red silk poppies which were brought to England by a French woman, Anna Guérin. The (Royal) British Legion, formed in 1921, ordered 9 million of these poppies and sold them on 11 November that year. The poppies sold out almost immediately and that first ever 'Poppy Appeal' raised over £106,000; a considerable amount of money at the time. This was used to help WW1 veterans with employment and housing.

The following year, Major George Howson set up the [Poppy Factory](#) to employ disabled ex-Servicemen. Today, the factory and the Legion's warehouse in Aylesford produces millions of poppies each year.

The demand for poppies in England was so high that few were reaching Scotland. Earl Haig's wife established the 'Lady Haig Poppy Factory' in Edinburgh in 1926 to produce poppies exclusively for Scotland. Over 5 million Scottish poppies (which have four petals and no leaf unlike poppies in the rest of the UK) are still made by hand by disabled ex-Servicemen at Lady Haig's Poppy Factory each year and distributed by our sister charity [Poppyscotland](#).

“A soft answer breaks many a hard heart.”

“Speak kind words and you will hear kind echoes”

THE POEM IN FLANDERS FIELDS

**In Flanders' fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place: and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.**

**We are the dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders' fields.**

**Take up our quarrel with the foe;
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high,
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders' Fields.**



News From David!

Things have been busy through the last month or so with moving and starting new responsibilities. I was looking at the card again that was sent by the art club with Frank's picture on the front. Please pass on our greetings to the club and our thanks for all their good wishes.



Although we have not moved very far, of course the community here is very different. It needs a lot of listening to pick up properly where the different churches and people are at. There is no shortage of green space with some beautiful parks and sports grounds and even the historic Herne Hill velodrome. The housing is dense with many new developments and their cranes across the skyline. There are lots of churches, many of which do not have their own buildings but using old pubs, factories, schools in which to meet. Most cultures are present but particularly from West Africa, the Caribbean - and of course not so many recent arrivals but several generations each with their own challenges. Southwark probably gets itself in the news for negative coverage - we cannot deny the gun and knife crime, but that doesn't tell the whole story. Last week one of our churches open a peace garden for the community that acts as a focus for education and provides a space for reflection. It has been designed by young people, with donated plants from Kew and Royal College of Surgeons - a really positive initiative that demonstrates that goodness is stronger than other forces that are destructive.

Please give our love to everyone,

Best wishes,

David



**A CONCERT IN COMMEMORATION
OF THE ARMISTICE CENTENARY
ELTHAM PARK
PLEASANT SUNDAY AFTERNOON ORCHESTRA
www.pleasant.co.uk**

Conductor – MARTIN CLEAVE Dip. RCM

- Overture - *Le Diadem* – Alphonse Herman
 - *Chanson de Matin*: Elgar
 - *Chanson de Nuit* – Elgar
- *Tunes from the Trenches* arr. Peter Lawson
- Cavatina from *The Deer Hunter*- Stanley Myers
 - A selection of songs from World War One
 - Selection: *South Pacific* – Richard Rodgers
 - *Eight Army March* – Eric Coates

Guest Soloists: Jill Cowburn (soprano) James Hay (tenor)

**SUNDAY 11th NOVEMBER 2018 at 3pm
NEW ELTHAM METHODIST CHURCH
FOOTSCRAY ROAD, LONDON SE9 3UL**

**ADMISSION FREE – COLLECTION DURING CONCERT
REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE**

Also Film night Wednesday 7th November at 7.00 pm

Invictus

The film tells the inspiring true story of how Nelson Mandela joined forces with the captain of South Africa's rugby team to help unite their country.

Film is free

Refreshments £1

Puzzle Page

Answers to the hidden books

Research has shown that something in our **genes** is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this paragraph. During a recent fund raising event, which featured this puzzle, the Alpha Delta **Phi lemonade** booth set a new sales record. The local paper, the **Chronicle**, surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As **Daniel** Humana **humbly** puts it, the books are right there in plain view, hidden from sight. **Those** able to find them all will hear great **lamentations** from those who have to be shown. One **revelation** that may help is that books like **Timothy** and **Samuel** may occur without their **numbers**. Also keep in mind that punctuation and spaces in the middle are **normal**. **A chipper** attitude will help **compete** really well against those who claim to know all the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mad **exodus**, there really are 15 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph, waiting to be found. **The books are: Genesis, Philemon, Chronicles, Daniel. Nahum, Hosea, Lamentations, Revelation, Timothy, Samuel, Numbers, Malachi, Peter, Exodus, Kings.**

Headgear Quiz

The answers to these are all a type of hat!

1. A cricket player.....
2. Tablet container.....
3. Canal.....
4. The Barrett family lived here.....
5. Opposite of bottom.....
6. Nude.....
7. A snack.....
8. A gale.....
9. 1854 battle.....
10. Bob the builder wears one



Answers next month!

What's on during the week?

(Regular Clubs and Classes – term times)

Mondays:

9.30 – 11.00am Yoga
4.15 – 8.00pm Ballet & Dance (Zena)

Tuesdays:

10.00am – noon AcaFellas (every other Tuesday)
1.30 – 4.30pm Art Club (every other Tuesday)
5.00 – 7.00pm Kumon Class

Wednesdays:

2.00 – 2.45pm Ballet (Colleen)
6.50 – 7.50pm Pilates
8.00 – 9.00pm Pilates
7.30 – 10.00pm Freedom in Christ (every other week)

Thursdays:

9.30 – 11.00am Yoga
2.00 – 2.45pm Ballet (Colleen)
4.00 – 6.00pm Ballet (Colleen)
8.20 – 9.20pm Pilates

Fridays:

9.35 – 10.35am Pilates
10.45 – 11.45am Pilates
Noon – 1pm Pilates
4.15 – 5.45pm Dance (Zena)

Saturdays:

4.00 – 6.00pm Kumon Class



ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES IN NOVEMBER

Wednesday Oct 31 st	2.30pm	Long Acre House Group
November		
Tuesday 6 th	1.30pm – 4.00pm	Art Club
Wednesday 7 th	9.45am	Bible study at OMC
	7.00pm	Film Night New Eltham (see p9)
Sunday 11 th	3.00pm	Armistice concert New Eltham (p9)
Tuesday 20 th	1.30pm – 4.00pm	Art Club

Thought for the Month

“In time of trouble say:

First – God brought me here. It is by His will I am in this strait place. In that I will rest.

Next – He will keep me in His love and give me grace in this trial to behave as His child.

Then – He will make the trial a blessing, teaching me lessons He intends me to learn and working on me the grace He means to bestow.

Last – In His good time He can bring me out again-how and when He knows.

I am here-by God’s appointment in His keeping, under His training, for His time.”

South African pastor: Andrew Murray

If you wish to contribute to the December Newsletter, may I have your items by Sunday, 11th November please.

Jane Lowing: 01689 851906

literacyjane51@hotmail.co.uk