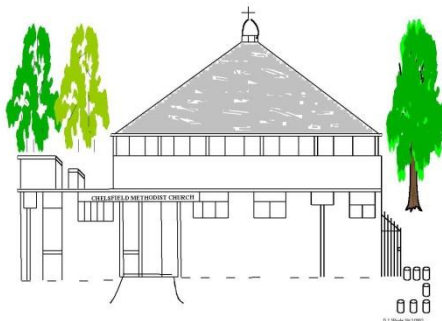


Chelsfield Methodist Church
Windsor Drive, Chelsfield
BR6 6HD
Tel: 01689 856290

Minister: Revd Terry Wright
The Manse, 20 Tower Road,
Orpington BR6 0BQ
Tel: 01689 822518



APRIL & MAY 2019

A Letter from The Manse

Dear Friends,

We continue to journey through the season of Lent, a time Christians have traditionally used for spiritual reflection: that's is to make space in a busy world for thinking about our relationship with God.

The story of Jesus in the wilderness (Matt 4) has long inspired the faithful with many themes that challenge our lives:

Making space for God alone, trusting and relying on God completely, temptation, the balance between bodily and spiritual needs and the list goes on. For me finding blessing even in the most hostile environments resonates.

Some of you will have heard the moving story of The Pianist of Yarmouk. This is a story of a young Syrian man named Aeham Ahmad who has become a symbol of hope as he simply plays his piano among the shattered remains of towns in war torn Syria. He would somehow move on a trolley a great big wooden upright piano to different towns and start to play uplifting songs literally among the ruins of homes and neighbourhoods. Children would often gather around and start to sing. Faces that knew only tears suddenly smiling, laughing and for a moment forgetting the horror of war. In that wilderness of desolation

and hopelessness of war this man brings something beautiful that's points to hope and not disaster.

For me Aeham has journeyed into the wilderness and made the experience (as hard as it must be) something to be celebrated. His action of playing music brought incredible danger, Isis terrorists absolutely hated what he was doing, snipers took shots at him as he played but he played on. Sadly, on one occasion a sniper shot dead a child who was singing along, but he continued to play unyielding in the face of hate that tried to silence his music. Eventually Isis destroyed his piano – but his music continues! And what evil men tried to destroy has grown from strength to strength and Aeham's music is now heard around the world and good is flowing back to Syria as a result.

You can follow his story 'The Pianist of Yarmouk' on You-Tube and The BBC I-player it truly is inspiring.

We may not get the opportunity to become famous or well known for the ways in which we turn wilderness situations into situations of hope and healing but we never have to look far to find a wilderness that just needs some of our time and effort to make hope grow again.

To those we bring hope and healing to what we do is priceless even if no one else ever knows the story. More than this God is with us as he was with Jesus during his wilderness time.

May your Lenten journey draw you closer to God and as you feel him near you will never fear the wilderness as The Pianist of Yarmouk discovered in the war zone of Syria. What sort of music will you bring to Orpington and Chelsfield?

Yours in Christ

Terry

SERVICES IN APRIL AND MAY 2019

APRIL

- Sunday 7th 10.30am Mr Ralph Brandhorst
Stewards: Audrey Lancaster & John Crowther
- Sunday 14th 10.30am Mr David Ball
Stewards: Rodney & Shirley Carder
- Sunday 21st 10.30am EASTER DAY S Cope
Stewards: Audrey Lancaster & John Crowther
- Sunday 28th 10.30am Revd. David Graham H.C.
Stewards: Rodney & Shirley Carder

MAY

- Sunday 5th 10.30am CHURCH ANNIVERSARY J Sennett
Stewards: Audrey Lancaster & John Crowther
- Sunday 12th 10.30am Revd. David Graham
Stewards: Rodney & Shirley Carder
- Sunday 19th 10.30am Mr Ralph Brandhorst
Stewards: Audrey Lancaster & John Crowther
- Sunday 26th 10.30am Revd. Terry Wright
Stewards: Rodney & Shirley Carder

CHURCH CARE

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

April

7th Paul

14th Rodney and Shirley

21st Brenda

28th Paul

May

5th Rodney and Shirley

12th Brenda

19th Paul

26th Rodney and Shirley

OUR APRIL/MAY PRAYER DIARY 2019

7 April is the 5th Sunday in Lent (The beginning of Passiontide)

PRAYER: Loving God, thank you for Jesus' courageous example of going into Jerusalem as he did, knowing he would soon be facing certain death. We pray for all victims of persecution past and present having refused to deny their faith in Jesus. We thank you that your Holy Spirit is ever present in our lives supporting us in whatever situation we have to face. Amen.

14 April Palm Sunday

PRAYER: Almighty God help us not to make the same mistake as the crowds did, hailing Jesus as he entered Jerusalem and thinking that he was going to be the country's liberator from foreign occupation. May people in whatever country they live come to realise that aggressive political subjugation is no solution. Support all those who try to bring peace in the world through the love which Jesus taught and practiced right up to his death. Amen.

18 April Maundy Thursday

PRAYER: Lord Jesus your example of washing your disciples' feet make some people hesitate from doing the same. But some have to do so in the cause of their work. We pray for all carers having to do unpleasant jobs for their clients. Help us from hesitating to help someone in need however distasteful the circumstances might be. Amen

19 Good Friday

PRAYER: Lord Jesus you suffered an agonising death because of a miscarriage of justice. We pray for those who suffer because of similar political and religious intolerance today. We pray for leaders who with knowledge, integrity and skill will challenge falsehood in order to

restore harmony and peace both locally and throughout the world.
Amen.

21 April Easter Day

PRAYER: Lord Jesus Christ the empty tomb transformed the lives of your disciples from anxiety, fear and doubt into confidence and joy. Transform us that we may go about our daily lives full of your Spirit ready to spread the good news by our actions and words.
Amen.

28 April Low Sunday

PRAYER: Almighty God, after the elation of Eastertide we have to come down to the routine of daily life again. At times when we feel at low ebb may the presence of your Holy Spirit give us fresh impotence to continue witnessing for you.
Amen.

5 May The Church Anniversary

PRAYER: Everlasting Father we remember all those members of our church who have gone before. We thank you for their foresight, determination and hard work to build this 'new' church nearer to a growing population. We thank you for their resolution. Times have changed and we pray you will help us to witness suitably for the needs of people today. Guide and inspire us by your Holy Spirit so that we may continue to spread the gospel of your redeeming love to everybody who lives near us and our church.
Amen.

12 May Christian Aid Week

PRAYER: Bountiful God we thank you for Christians of all denominations uniting to set up the Christian Aid organisation in order to relieve distress throughout the world. We pray for all its workers, many of whom are volunteers. We pray for the starving, homeless and

sick who have benefitted from its service and pray that your Holy Spirit will strengthen them all. Amen.

19 May Aldersgate Sunday

PRAYER: Gracious God we remember how John Wesley went reluctantly to the meeting which transformed his life when his heart became strangely warmed by your Holy Spirit. We thank you that his changed life resulted in the wide expansion of the gospel beginning in England and spreading throughout the world. Help us to carry that flame in our own lives no matter how we feel. Warm us when we feel disheartened. Revitalise us as we work together to make your love known in all the different ways we can and to everyone
Amen.

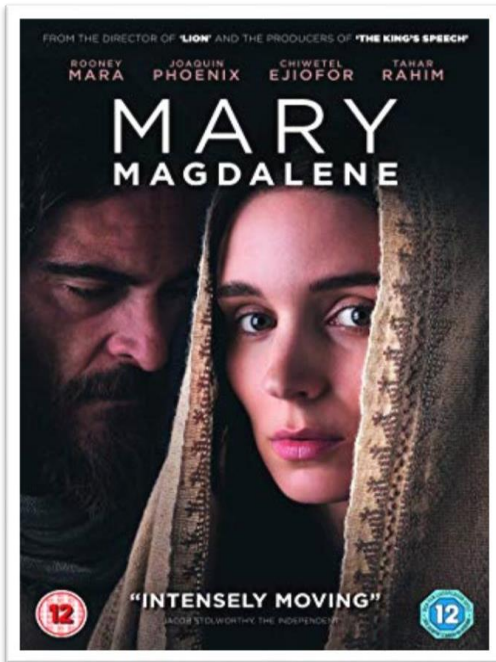
26 May Sunday just prior to Ascension Day, this Thursday

PRAYER: God of heaven forgive us when we spend so much time paying attention to the world's needs that we forget your eternal unforeseen world. Give us a vision of Jesus so that we can picture his whole life from his time healing and preaching in Galilee and Judea to his suffering on the cross; his conquering of death and his final entry into life eternal. We thank you that through the Holy Spirit he promised us, our lives and work are constantly being sustained.
Amen.

Film Night



@ New Eltham Methodist Church
Wednesday 17th April at 7.00 pm



Mary Magdalene

A young girl from the village of Magdala resists the traditional roles of women in society, and takes the opportunity to rebel by following the newly famous Jesus and his disciples.

*Running time 1hr
20m.*

All welcome to come along and enjoy the film which will followed by a short discussion and light refreshments. The film is free but there will be a small charge of £1 for refreshments. Bring a friend!

**Next Film Night: Wednesday 15th May at 7.00
pm.**

EASTER

*(Acrostic poem where the first letter of each line spells the word
EASTER)*

Even though the darkness raged
And all was still, the sun had gone
Still they shouted their abuse
Taunting Him – ‘you’re not God’s Son!

Elijah hasn’t rescued you,
Renounce your claim, you’re just like me,
Everyone can see you hang
Arms outstretched, nailed to a tree’.

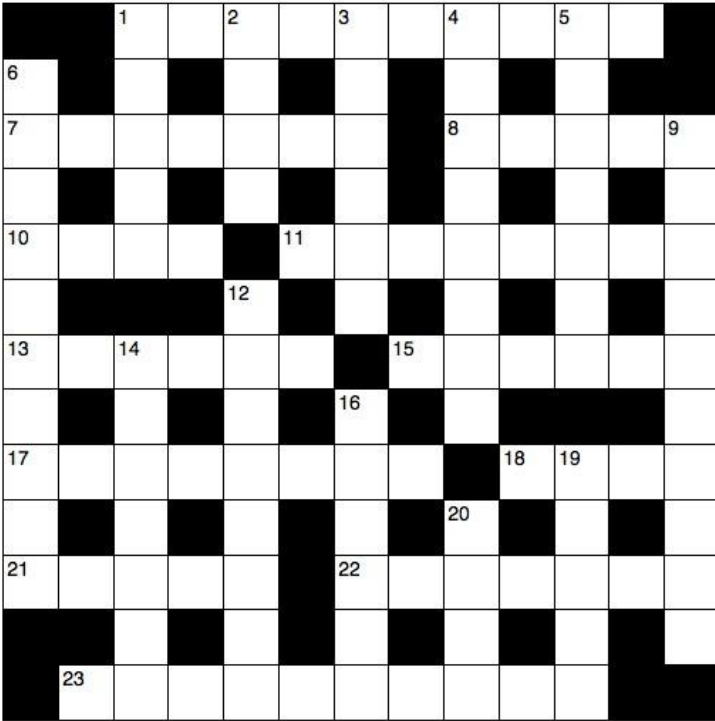
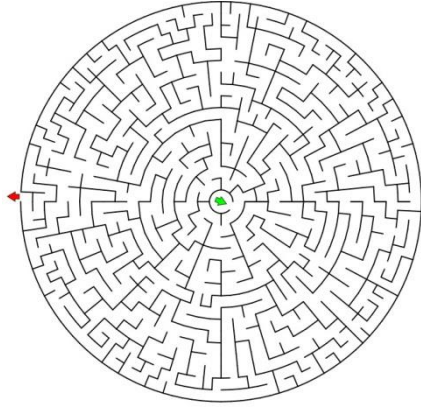
So it seemed that all was lost,
Their hopes their dreams forever gone –
Eternity had other plans
Resurrection Day was soon to dawn.

By Megan Carter

Puzzle Page

	7		4	6		
			1	7	4	8
	9	5	6	3		2
1	8		3	2	5	
2						9
		9		5	4	7
	1		9	6	3	5
	4	2	1	7		
		6		8		1

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Crossword Clues and Answers

Across

- 1 'You are a chosen people, a royal — ' (1 Peter 2:9) (10)
- 7 Exact copy (Joshua 22:28) (7)
- 8 Jesus' first words to Jairus's daughter, 'My child, — — ' (Luke 8:54) (3,2)
- 10 Idol made by the Israelites while Moses was on Mount Sinai (Exodus 32:4) (4)
- 11 Role allotted to Joseph in Egypt (Genesis 42:6) (8)
- 13 'Lord, when did we — — hungry and feed you?' (Matthew 25:37) (3,3)
- 15 'Though seeing, they do — —; though hearing, they do not hear or understand' (Matthew 13:13) (3,3)
- 17 Happening (1 Kings 21:1) (8)
- 18 'Whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the — of Christ' (Philippians 3:7) (4)
- 21 National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (1,1,1,1,1)
- 22 Stamp on (Amos 2:7) (7)
- 23 Liable to rot (1 Corinthians 15:42) (10)

Down

- 1 Of the pope (5)
- 2 'The earth is the Lord's, and everything — — ' (Psalm 24:1) (2,2)
- 3 Hebrew word for the kind of peace that Jesus promised (6)
- 4 Member of a 16th-century Protestant reform movement in France (8)
- 5 Sing out (anag.) (7)
- 6 Ceremonial column of people on the move (1 Samuel 10:5) (10)
- 9 One of the things love always does (1 Corinthians 13:7) (10)
- 12 Esther's cousin who foiled a plot to assassinate King Xerxes (Esther 2:7, 22) (8)
- 14 See cape (anag.) (7)
- 16 'No one can — them out of my hand' (John 10:28) (6)
- 19 Often mistakenly identified as the fruit that led to the first sin (Joel 1:12) (5)
- 20 'He was led like a — to the slaughter' (Isaiah 53:7) (4)

What's on during the week?

(Regular Clubs and Classes – term times)

Mondays:

9.30 – 11.00am Yoga
2.00 - 2.45 pm Ballet & Dance (Zena)
4.15 - 8.00pm

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
As above Pilates but held in the
Church (two sessions)

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
5.00 – 5.45pm Dance (Zena)

Saturdays:

4.00 – 6.00pm Kumon Class

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES IN APRIL AND MAY

April

Wednesday 17 th	9:15 – 12:15pm	Messy Play
Wednesday 17 th	7:00pm	Film Night New Eltham
Good Friday 19 th	10.00am 10.40am	Service at OMC followed by Walk of Witness

May

Wednesday 15 th	7:00pm	Film Night New Eltham
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Thought for the Month

“To hold a grudge is like sprinkling salt on an open wound. Let bygones be bygones and experience the healing effect of calm.

Luke 11:4

If you wish to contribute to the June 2019 newsletter may I have your items by Sunday 19th May please.

Email Alice : chelsfield.mc@gmail.com

Chelsfield Methodist Church is now online!

The website link is www.chelsfieldmethodistchurch.org.uk

Facebook page is www.facebook.com/chelsfieldmc

Twitter @chelsfieldcmc

Why not give us a like and share and keep updated on
what's happening at the church.