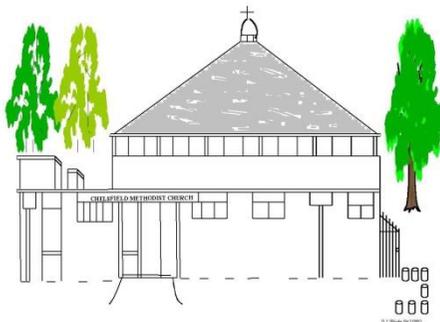


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DECEMBER 2019 & JANUARY 2020

A Letter from The Manse

Dear Friends,

Hopefully as you read this letter, we will have just begun the season of Advent which this year runs from 1st December to Christmas Eve. Advent is a season of preparation in the life of the church, and not just one preparation but two! Firstly, we are called to prepare our hearts, minds and souls for the coming of a baby from Heaven who comes to change our hearts and ultimately the world with what we do now as individuals and as the church. Secondly, we are called to prepare for Jesus second coming when once and for all the Kingdom of God is established and all the bad things of the past will be done with. Rev 21:1-4

Wow 24 days to do all this, and you thought going to M&S for the turkey and crackers was stressful! But Advent should come to us as a gift ahead of Christmas not just another chore to weigh us down. You might want to join me on Wednesday 4th, Thursday 12th & Thursday 19th (Venue to be confirmed) for 'A Journey into Advent' a reflective, prayerful time when we take some time out to be refreshed by Adverts message of expectation and hope. – Let me know if you want to come?

Now you don't need yet another minister warning you of the perils of a consumerist Christmas nor do I need to emphasise putting Christ back into Christmas, we know what we need to do. Our challenge is to find those moments, spaces and natural opportunities to gently bring to the fore that

wonderful story of a God who steps out of heaven for a draughty stable because he has a plan: a baby that has the power to change hearts.

We can be very creative with the cards we send the messages we write inside them. There is also so many opportunities to get gifts that don't just boost the profits of a multinational company but change the lives of those most in need. A quick 'google' on our smart devices put us in touch with Charites like Christian Aid, All We Can, Oxfam and the many others who have great gift ideas.

But most of all in this Advent I wish you PEACE! Easy to say not so easy to find. The Angels bid those anxious shepherd's peace, its how they began the message for them and its is what God wants for us especially in the run up to Christmas Day.

And if your one of many who will be doing so much in the church and other places to get the Christmas Celebrations in Place may you know peace, put up tress and decorate with joy, peel those brussels with a heavenly choir singing in your heart, wrap presents up along with your love and no matter how many times you hear '*I wish it could be Christmas everyday*' by Wizard played at The Walnuts Shopping centre be caught up in the joy!

It is possible to find peace even in these busiest of days and God wills for us all.

Terry



SERVICES IN DECEMBER 2019

Sunday 1st	10.30am	R. Brandhorst Stewards: Rodney & Shirley Carder
Sunday 8th	10.30am	Revd. D Graham Stewards: Audrey Lancaster & John Crowther
Sunday 15th	10.30am	Revd. Terry Wright HC Stewards: Rodney & Shirley Carder Acafellas performing
Sunday 22nd	10.30am	J Mayes Stewards: Audrey Lancaster & John Crowther
Sunday 29th	10:30am	Circuit Service @ Chislehurst Methodist Church

CHURCH CARE

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

December

1 st	Rodney and Shirley
8 th	Brenda
15 th	Paul
22 nd	Rodney and Shirley
29 th	Brenda

SERVICES IN JANUARY 2020

Sunday 5th	10.30am	Chris Price Stewards: Rodney & Shirley Carder
Sunday 12th	10.30am	Revd. Terry Wright Covenant HC Stewards: Audrey Lancaster & John Crowther
Sunday 19th	10.30am	D Graham Stewards: Rodney & Shirley Carder
Sunday 26th	10.30am	S Cope Stewards: Audrey Lancaster & John Crowther

CHURCH CARE

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

January

5 th	Paul
12 th	Rodney and Shirley
19 th	Brenda
26 th	Paul

OUR PRAYER DIARY FOR DECEMBER 2019

1 December 1st Sunday in Advent. ‘The Law was given by Moses but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ’ John 1:17.

Loving Father God, the Old Testament prophets realised that words weren’t enough and looked forward to the time when you would send a Saviour to redeem Israel. We thank you that through them you prepared the people for the coming of Jesus. Thank you for his advent into the world, not as a man but as a baby, to show us how little you are impressed by status, self-righteousness, pious words and dogmatism, preferring meekness instead. Forgive us when we have put ourselves first. Fill us with your Spirit and help us try to live like Jesus.

Amen.

8 December 2nd Sunday in Advent. ‘Light shines in darkness and the darkness has never mastered it.’ John 1:5

Jesus came to be the light of the world to dispel the various forms of darkness: - greed, selfishness, envy, pride and indifference. Lord Jesus you call us to cast off our works of darkness and walk as the children of light. Preparing for Christmas, faced with additional distractions help us to remember that darkness never wins. In our busy-ness may we reflect the light you shed on us.

Amen.

15 December 3rd Sunday in Advent. ‘A man named John was sent from God as witness to testify to the light. John 1:6.

Lord Jesus, as John the Baptist came to prepare the way for your coming, may we, your Church, continue to seek ways for you to

come into the lives of others. May Christmas be more than just a time for festivity. Help us to make our church a place where people who are depressed, anxious, bereaved, ill and filled with low esteem, can find a haven and eventually a place of worship.

Amen.



22 December 4th Sunday in Advent

It's nearly here; Christmas Eve. Everything ready? Anything forgotten? Is it too soon to relax and look forward to the 25th?

Father God, has it all been worthwhile? Was what you did more than twenty centuries ago worthwhile? WE know it was. It revealed the love you had for humankind. Thank you!

We pray for all those engaged in working hard to bring comfort and relief to the 'down and outs', people for whom too little attention is given for the rest of the year. Bless the givers, bless the receivers. We at Chelsfield pray especially for the endeavours made for the Whitechapel Mission the whole year round. May this Christmas bring many closer to you.

Amen.

25 December Christmas Day.

You, Jesus, are our greatest Christmas present, bringing us the message of forgiveness and hope.

Thank you for coming as a helpless baby to show us that God is there in every situation. Thank you Jesus for coming into the world homeless and poor, a world where many find themselves suffering, destitute, hungry and sick. You make it sure to us that God knows and understands. May this message spread around the world as we celebrate today.

Amen.

29 December New Year's Eve (Almost)

Eternal God, at the end of the Old Year we prepare ourselves for the New. We look back and thank you for all that is past, thanking you for your continual presence in our moments of happiness and discomfort and trusting you for all that's to come.

Amen.



OUR PRAYER DIARY FOR JANUARY 2020

5 January Homelessness

Crisis at Christmas (and other Agencies) provide much needed shelter, gifts and comfort for those who are homeless, albeit temporarily.

We know that Wise Men brought gifts to Jesus but not long after that He and his family had to flee the country whilst he was an infant to escape the wrath of Herod who thought He was a threat to his throne. Where did they live in Egypt? Who was there to help them in their time of need?

Many of us have grown up assuming that nearly everybody in this country could enjoy the security of 'a roof over their head.' That's not the case today. The situation in this country is bad enough with a shortage of affordable housing to buy or rent, but consider the problem world-wide. Natural disasters such as earthquakes, hurricanes, floods; military intervention in countries such as Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Yemen, Libya and many other hot-spots have made the problem worse.

Prayer: Loving God we pray for the homeless forced to leave their homes for a life of uncertainty; people living on the streets, under lean-to shacks, anywhere to shelter from harmful weather. May they find refuge in the comfort of your sustaining hands. Strengthen the work of individuals and agencies who help the homeless, so that dignity and security may be restored to them.

Amen

**12 January, Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, (1 Corinthians 1:10-16)
&**

Our Covenant Sunday

Things weren't always easy for Paul. There was rivalry between the leaders of some early groups of Christians and he had difficulty keeping them together. Some converts included in their worship bits of Jewish ritual which they used to use before their conversion; others hankered after including what they had learned when they had worshipped various Greek gods. In those days there were no Gospels to guide them. Paul tried to unite them telling them that the preaching of Christ crucified was the mainspring of their existence.

Prayer: We thank you God that the past antagonism between the various denominations within the Church have almost gone and that your reconciling love is bringing the church closer together. On this Sunday for Christian Unity we pray especially for all preachers who will be conducting services in churches of different denominations from their own. **Amen**

Our Covenant Prayer

'God of grace, through the mediation of Your Son, You call us into a new covenant. Help us therefore to draw near with faith and join ourselves in a perpetual covenant with You; through Jesus Christ our Lord'.

Amen (The Methodist Worship Book)

19 January

'And Mary kept all these things in her heart'.

Prayer: Loving God there are times when we treasure those moments which fill us with joy but we keep them to ourselves. There

might be embarrassing situations when we are only too ready to keep them secret. Lord, from You there are no secrets so help us to remember that whatever they are You will always respond to them.

Amen

26 January Holocaust Memorial Sunday

We find it astonishing that in our lifetime men, women and children have been persecuted mercilessly just because they were Jewish; and it still goes on. Yet those persecutors worshipped the Saviour of the World who was Jewish through and through. Where is the logic in that?

Prayer: Father we cannot fathom how you still are able to love us when we hurt you so much and so often. But You chose this way of demonstrating Your power and glory by introducing Your Son to the World through a simple Jewish family who brought up the Saviour of the world. Help us through the Holy Spirit to find You in the ordinariness of our daily lives and the friends with whom we share our faith.

Amen

What's on during the week?

(Regular Clubs and Classes – term times)

Mondays:

9.30 – 11.00am Yoga
2.00 – 2.30 &
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 (Coleen)
7.00 – 8.00pm Pilates In the church and hall
8.00 – 9.00pm Pilates In the church and hall

Thursdays:

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

Fridays:

9.35 – 10.35am Pilates
10.45 – 11.45am Pilates
Noon – 1pm Pilates (Post Natal)
1:30 – 3:00pm Rainbow Tots
5.00 – 5.45pm Dance (Zena)

Saturdays:

4.00 – 6.00pm Kumon Class



RAINBOW TOTS

Every Friday 1:30 – 3:00pm

In the Church

£1 per family

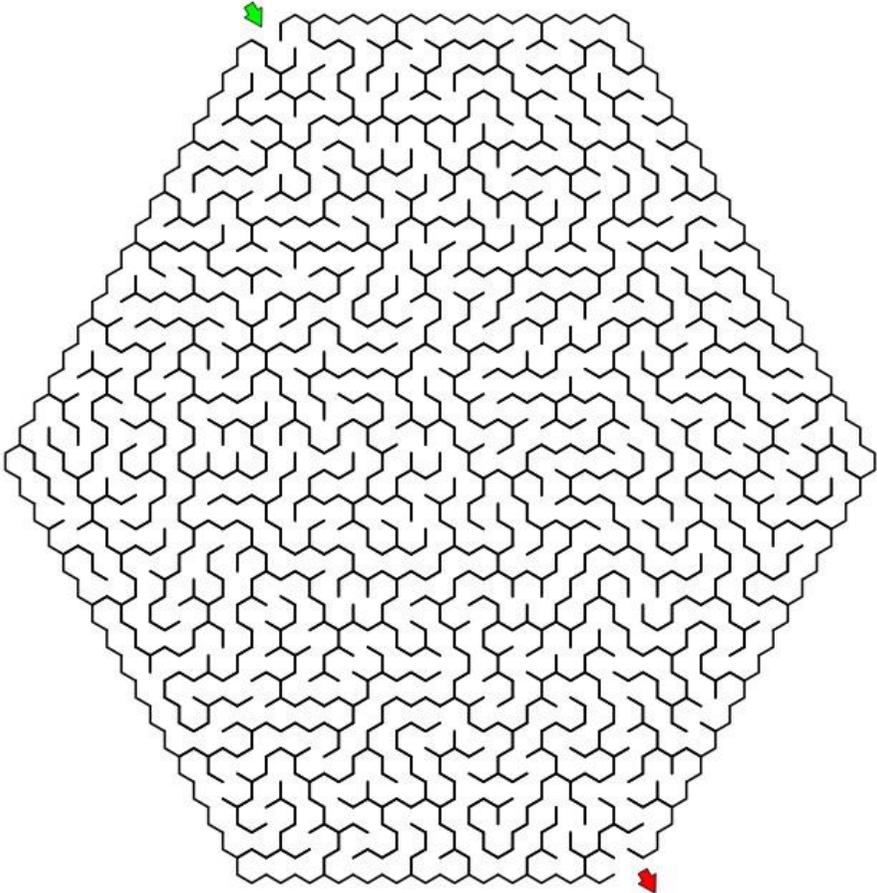
**Last Rainbow tots will be on
13th December to resume
again on 10th January 2020.**

Puzzle Pages

Last month's crossword answers

ACROSS: 1, Jehoiachin. 7, Endured. 8, Eased. 10, Rash. 11, Startled. 13, Easier. 15, Rubric. 17, Impurity. 18, Feet. 21, Eye at. 22, Ready to. 23, Holy Spirit.

DOWN: 1, Judas. 2, Harm. 3, Is duty. 4, Cheerful. 5, Insular. 6, Jezreelite. 9, Dedication. 12, Secretly. 14, Supremo. 16, Stir up. 19, Egypt. 20, Hair.



20 In his vision of the two eagles and the vine, this is how Ezekiel described the latter (Ezekiel 17:8) (8)

21 Rite (anag.) (4)

22 Nine gigs (anag.) (8)

23 'The eye cannot say to the — , "I don't need you"' (1 Corinthians 12:21) (4)

Down

1 'Flee for your lives! Don't — — , and don't stop anywhere in the plain!' (Genesis 19:17) (4,4)

2 Principal thoroughfare (Numbers 20:19) (4,4)

4 'The tax collector... beat his — and said, "God have mercy on me, a sinner"' (Luke 18:13) (6)

5 'The zeal of the Lord Almighty will — this' (2 Kings 19:31) (10)

6 'The day of the Lord is — for all nations' (Obadiah 15) (4)

7 Specified day (Acts 21:26) (4)

10 Deadly epidemic (Deuteronomy 32:24) (10)

12 Roman Catholic church which has special ceremonial rights (8)

13 Tied up (2 Kings 7:10) (8)

16 In his speech to the Sanhedrin, Stephen described Moses as 'powerful in speech and — ' (Acts 7:22) (6)

18 'Although he did not remove the high places, — heart was fully committed to the Lord all his life' (1 Kings 15:14) (4)

19 Tribe (Deuteronomy 29:18) (4)

m	a	r	y	h	m	a	n	g	e	r	u
s	p	a	l	a	c	e	p	m	q	k	s
k	l	b	c	h	r	i	s	t	h	w	h
y	q	h	e	a	r	d	e	s	e	n	e
q	p	j	c	t	o	z	e	n	a	i	p
p	r	e	n	g	h	f	n	t	v	g	h
c	a	r	e	f	u	l	l	y	e	h	e
h	i	l	l	s	i	d	e	o	n	t	r
c	s	a	v	i	o	u	r	h	c	m	d
s	i	n	g	i	n	g	w	n	e	k	s
a	n	g	e	l	b	a	b	y	a	m	s
r	g	l	o	r	y	g	o	o	d	e	o

shepherds
 Christ
 Saviour
 glory
 news
 praising
 hillside
 singing

baby
 message
 night
 carefully
 palace
 flocks
 manger
 good

heard
 sky
 angel
 Bethlehem
 heaven
 Mary
 God
 seen

Thought for the Month

The very purpose of Christ's coming into the world was that he might offer up his life as a sacrifice for the sins of men. He came to die. This is the heart of Christmas

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES IN DECEMBER

Tuesdays 3rd & 10th 1.30 – 4pm Art Club
Fridays 6th & 13th 1.30pm – 3.00pm Rainbow Tots
Sunday 15th 10:30am Service with Acafellas performing
Wednesday 25th Christmas Day Service @ Orpington Methodist Church
Sunday 29th 10:30am Circuit Service @ Chislehurst Methodist Church

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES IN JANUARY

Tuesdays 7th & 21st 1:30 – 4pm Art Club
Fridays 10th, 17th, 24th & 31st 1:30 – 3:00pm Rainbow Tots

If you wish to contribute to the February Newsletter, may I have your items by Sunday 18th January.

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

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