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# CMC BULLETIN

CHELSEFIELD METHODIST CHURCH

**FEBRUARY 2020**

First edition



## A Letter from The Manse

Dear Friends,

At the time of writing this letter it is a year since our rescue dog Bonnie came into our lives. I rushed back home from preaching at Mottingham to see a large white van parked outside the manse. The van had driven over 2 days from Bulgaria with a cargo of dogs all going to homes across the UK. The large doors opened at the back and a very frightened little dog emerged shaking like a leaf and that was my first meeting with Bonnie.

I thanked the driver and took the leash and coaxed Bonnie inside to where I had prepared a bed and a feast for our furry new arrival. Bonnie ignored both comfy bed and food and tried instead to hide behind the washing machine; he was not a happy dogo.

Well I tried a new strategy and I just sat down on the kitchen floor and waited.... well long story short after a long time Bonnie approached me, then withdrew, approach and then withdrew but by evening he came to me, started wagging his tale and the rest is history.

Bonnie loves being in Orpington with Goddington Park, Cuckoo Woods and the many other great places to walk, explore and chase squirrels.

Well, as heart-warming as all this is, what's it to do with God and this New Year we have entered?

Now please be assured I'm not for a moment comparing any of us to frightened dogs! However, the incredible change I've seen in Bonnie over one calendar year got me to thinking. Love and care transformed this dog's

life. Love and care slowly changed his nature and to me this relates to our life as Christians.

This year we will walk past, bump into shopping or meet as we drive our cars, many people whose life for various reasons has been damaged. We rarely know the life story behind the strangers we meet. That rude person who beeped at us because we were slow off a red light or that person who scowled at as they barged past may be facing a life challenge hidden from us.

We all know awkward people, neighbours who are difficult or hard to engage. Goodness knows I have such folk in my own family! But I am convinced of God's eternal love, care and purpose that can transform the most damaged and hurt and offer a life of hope and purpose.

Bonnie was sat in a dog's home in Bulgaria for months waiting for his new home as many people prefer to buy puppies that are cute and have no emotional baggage. Our incredible God seeks out the damaged, the broken, the hopeless, the difficult and all in need of love and care.

And guess what? – He's chosen us to be his hands, words of kindness and through us he can heal as Christ's love shines through our eyes. So every blessing as we journey into 2020 – I'm off to walk Bonnie and I wonder who I'll bump into today?

Terry



## SERVICES IN FEBRUARY 2020

Sunday 2nd	10.30am	Rev. Terry Wright HC Stewards: Rodney & Shirley Carder
Sunday 9th	10.30am	David Ball Stewards: John Crowther
Sunday 16th	10.30am	Rev. Terry Wright Stewards: Rodney & Shirley Carder
Sunday 23rd	10.30am	Nelson Pallister Stewards: John Crowther

## CHURCH CARE

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

February

2nd	Rodney and Shirley
9th	Brenda
16th	Paul
23rd	Rodney and Shirley

### **OUR PRAYERS FOR FEBRUARY**

**(Reproduced from our February Newsletter of 2018)**

**And with thanks to Gordon Handley**

Babyhood, childhood, adulthood, and perhaps for some of us old age, are stages in life for which we are grateful to God.

#### **4 February. Babyhood**

We all know how vulnerable tiny babies are. Child mortality when Jesus was born would have been very high. God's plan was that He would survive so that His story would be told.

**PRAYER:** Lord Jesus we thank you that you came into this world as a little baby exposed to the same dangers as any other baby. We pray that all babies should receive loving care from their parents, relations, friends and siblings, free from abuse. Help them to recognise the potential that such a tiny form might hold. We pray

especially for babies born in war zones, disaster areas and refugee camps where injury, hunger and disease are common. We pray for their parents in despair, helpless; and for relief agencies, doctors, nurses and assistants who dedicate their lives to ministering to such distress.

**Amen.**

### **11 February. Childhood**

It's amazing how quickly children pick up new ideas. These are their impressive, formative years when they absorb information so readily; but it's not always without pitfalls.

**PRAYER:** Father God we pray for young people living in today's fast-moving world with its many distractions and temptations. We ask that they may be able to cope with the ever changing demands of our educational system and use today's resources for acquiring information wisely risking the temptation to misuse them in order to harm other users. We pray that the motive for people in contact with young people will always be scrupulous. **Amen.**

### **18 February. Middle Years**

These are perhaps the most demanding years; keeping a job, maintaining a home, bringing up children, caring for elderly parents.

**PRAYER:** Loving God give strength to all those who have so many responsibilities. Give them guidance to know how best to organise their lives. May they have time to rest and meet with friends and share their problems. We thank you that we can meet together to share our hopes, disappointments, joys and sorrows together in our Church, knowing that your Holy Spirit is present with us. May we always be ready to welcome anyone in need of support.

**Amen.**

## **25 February. Old Age**

We should never forget that old people were once young and have accumulated a wealth of experience from which others could benefit.

**PRAYER:** Everlasting God who never ignores the elderly, we pray for those who are unable to live an active life.

We pray for those suffering from dementia, the bedridden, and those in constant pain. We pray for the elderly in hospital, nursing homes and sheltered homes including our Methodist Homes. We pray for relatives, friends and carers looking after the elderly. Help us always to treat them with the dignity they deserve.

**Amen**

**(And for some of us –**

Although we can't do all the things we used to do, we 'oldies' thank you for the loving care we received when we were fit and able. We thank you for memories of loved ones and friends who have gone

before us. We thank you for your continuing comforting presence. Fill us with the assurance that like Jesus we shall rise again to abide with you forever.)

**Amen.**



## 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 (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:**

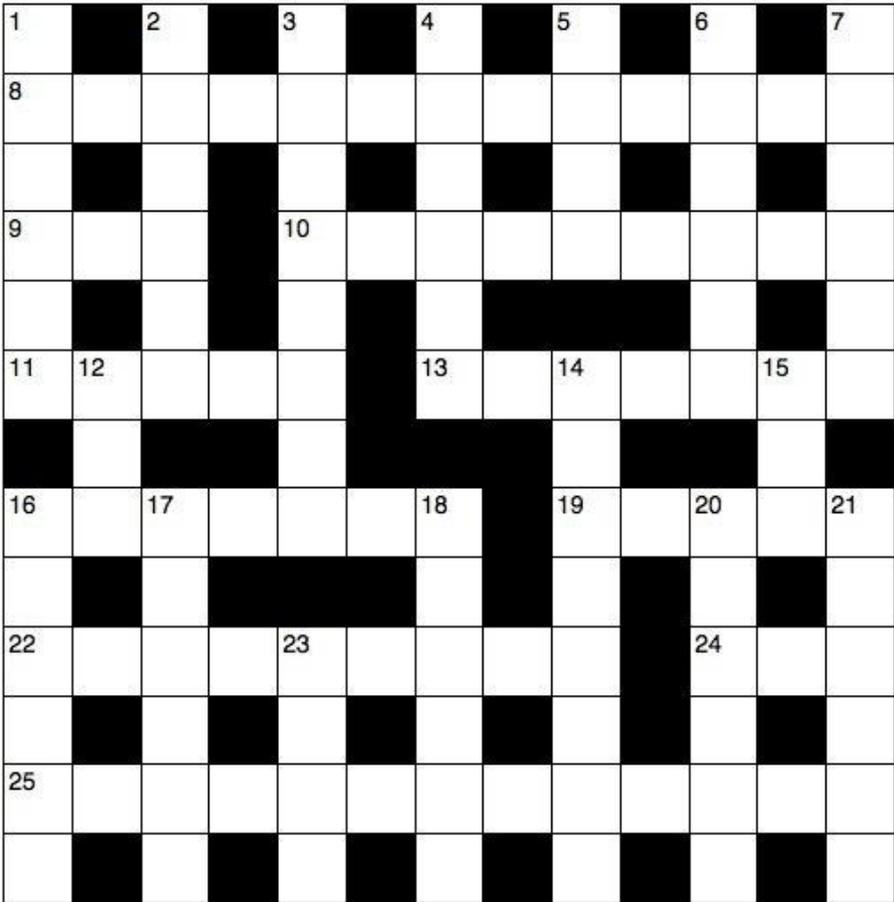
9.35 – 10.35am      Pilates  
10.45 – 11.45am      Pilates

Noon – 1pm	Pilates (Post Natal)
1:30 – 3:00pm	Rainbow Tots
5.00 – 5.45pm	Dance (Zena)

**Saturdays:**

4.00 – 6.00pm	Kumon Class
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## Puzzle Pages



**Crossword Clues**

Across

- 8 Interrogated (Acts 12:19) (5-8)
- 9 'Burn it in a wood fire on the — heap' (Leviticus 4:12) (3)
- 10 Tobit, Judith, Baruch and the books of Esdras and the Maccabees are part of it (9)
- 11 Science fiction (abbrev.) (3-2)
- 13 Clay pit (anag.) (7)
- 16 Went to (John 4:46) (7)
- 19 'Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to — your bodies as living sacrifices' (Romans 12:1) (5)

- 22 David's plea to God concerning those referred to in 14 Down: 'On — — let them escape' (Psalm 56:7) (2,7)  
 24 Royal Automobile Club (1,1,1)  
 25 How the book of Ezekiel refers to God more than 200 times (Ezekiel 2:4) (9,4)

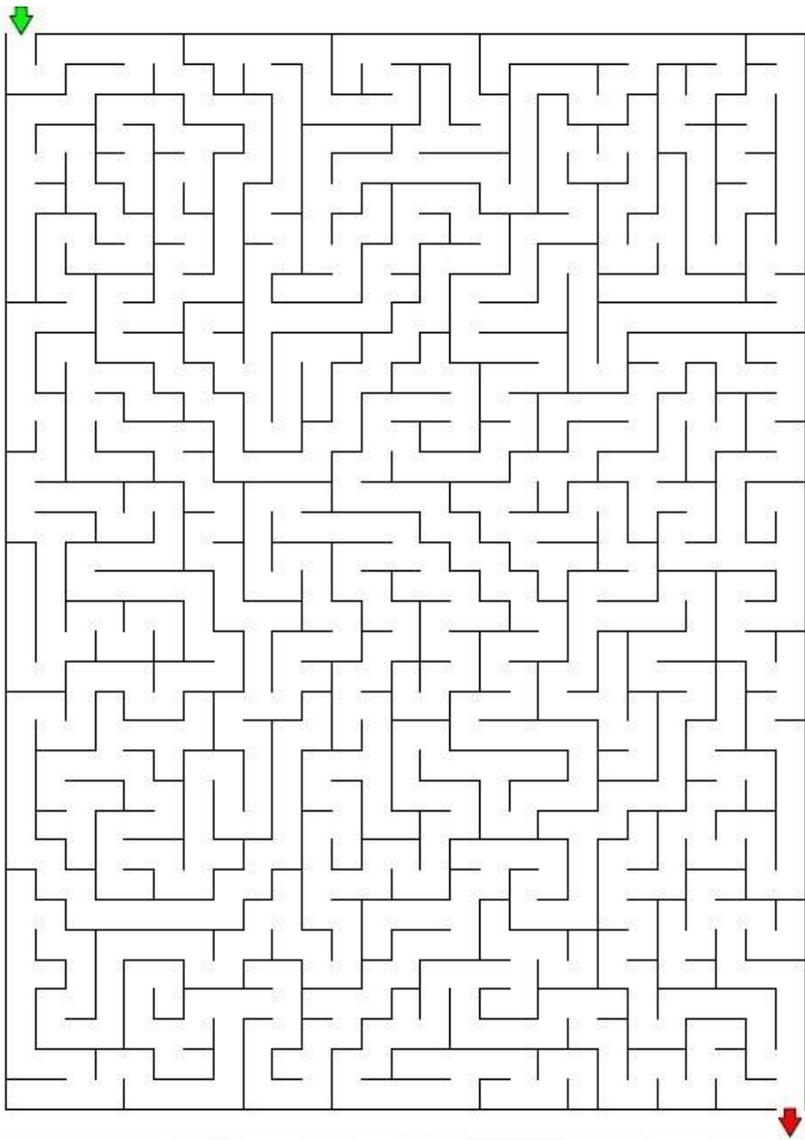
### Down

- 1 Seas (Proverbs 8:24) (6)  
 2 One of the sons of Eli the priest, killed in battle by the Philistines (1 Samuel 4:11) (6)  
 3 Specialist in the study of the Muslim religion (8)  
 4 'Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but — him as if he were your father' (1 Timothy 5:1) (6)  
 5 One of Esau's grandsons (Genesis 36:11) (4)  
 6 Taking a chance (colloq.) (2,4)  
 7 God's instructions to the Israelites concerning grain offerings: ' — salt to — your offerings' (Leviticus 2:13) (3,3)  
 12 Confederation of British Industry (1,1,1)  
 14 'All day long they twist my words; they are always — to harm me' (Psalm 56:5) (8)  
 15 The crowd's reaction to Jesus bringing back to life a widow's son in Nain (Luke 7:16) (3)  
 16 Disappear (Psalm 104:35) (6)  
 17 How Jeremiah was likely to die if he wasn't rescued from the cistern where he was imprisoned (Jeremiah 38:9) (6)  
 18 What the prophets do to a wall, with whitewash (Ezekiel 13:10, RSV) (4,2)  
 20 Made by a plough (Job 39:10) (6)  
 21 Noah was relieved when the flood waters continued to — (Genesis 8:5) (6)  
 23 Jesus gave the Twelve the power and authority to do this to diseases (Luke 9:1) (4)

### Answers for the December/January Newsletter

**ACROSS:** 1, Lame. 3, Obtained. 8, Omit. 9, Merchant. 11, Burdensome. 14, Crafty. 15, Please. 17, Blacksmith. 20, Splendid. 21, Tier. 22, Singeing. 23, Hand.

**DOWN:** 1, Look back. 2, Main road. 4, Breast. 5, Accomplish. 6, Near. 7, Date. 10, Pestilence. 12, Basilica. 13, Tethered. 16, Action. 18, Asa's. 19, Clan.





# **RAINBOW TOTS**

**Every Friday 1:30 – 3:00pm**

**In the Church**

**£1 per family**

A CHURCHES TOGETHER IN ORPINGTON OPEN MEETING

# "Include me too!"

How to be an autism-friendly church  
for parents, carers, church and  
community workers...

People of all faiths or none are welcome to come

**Aim:**

To network, learn from one another and  
develop a Charter of Good Practice



What would good  
practice look like  
in your church  
or community group?

A wide variety of  
short presentations  
from people who know!



Bromley Parent Voice



THE LONDON BOROUGH  
www.bromley.gov.uk

9.30am - 12.30pm

Saturday 30 May 2020

Orpington Baptist Church

Station Road, Orpington BR6 0RZ (Entrance off The Drive)

Please book your **free** place by Monday 4 May

▪ Email [mptravers@aol.com](mailto:mptravers@aol.com)

▪ Text 07891 259 195

letting us know the reason for your interest



Churches  
Together  
IN ORPINGTON

## Thought for the Month

Incline your ear, and hear the words of the wise, and apply your heart  
to my knowledge

Proverbs 22:17

If you wish to contribute to the March Newsletter, may I have your items by Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February.

Email Alice : [chelsfield.mc@gmail.com](mailto:chelsfield.mc@gmail.com)

**Chelsfield Methodist Church is now online!**

The website link is [www.chelsfieldmethodistchurch.org.uk](http://www.chelsfieldmethodistchurch.org.uk)

Facebook page is [www.facebook.com/chelsfieldmc](http://www.facebook.com/chelsfieldmc)

Twitter @chelsfieldcmc

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

### **Church Council Meeting**

The date for the Church Council Meeting has to been confirmed as being on the **16<sup>th</sup> February**, following the morning Service.