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# CMG BULLETIN

CHELSFIELD METHODIST CHURCH

**MARCH 2020**

Second edition



## A Letter from The Manse

Dear Friends

I once had a friend who said, “If anything ever happened to my daughter I would stop believing in God.” Or another words his faith in God depended on everything going his way in life. For my friend God would cease to exist if in a time of trial.

You will often have heard it said by friends, family neighbours and work colleagues, that if there is a God then why is there war, famine, disease or natural disasters. Again, if there’s a God why does bad stuff happen?

Ecclesiastes 1:9 says there is nothing new under the sun. And human beings have been wrestling with the question ‘If God loves us then why do bad things happen?’ There may have been very difficult times in your life when you may well have asked the question; Lord I believe in you so why are you letting me go through this?

The story of Job is a story that wrestles with these very questions. Here is a character, Job, who lives a good God fearing life, then suddenly disaster hits him when sickness and many other challenges befall him. He gets to a point where he says: ‘I am tired of living’ Job 10:1

What I take from The Book of Job is this:

1. Life brings challenges. FACT! – Faith brings the ability to endure and not to allow the challenges (however hard) to defeat us.
2. God does not forsake us for having someone to share difficult times with makes a difference.

3. God is our father who we can complain too; he understands our frustrations and our need at times to be angry at him. He doesn't retaliate at Job, he listens.
4. Ultimately Job is restored and ultimately in Christ, whether in this life or the next, we are restored to that perfect place that God has designated for us.

The book of Job needs careful reading. We are told Job suffers almost because the devil and God are having a bit of a bet on Job's faith. I feel that's more of a way of telling the story, explaining how the world works.

It is a fact God made a perfect world and that sin (The work of the devil) caused its brokenness of which illness and infirmity are a part.

As we all get older and it is a FACT that for most of us our bodies start to get frail, they bring all sorts of aches pains and the need for a mobile apothecary to follow us with pills and potions. There may be many days when we feel like poor old Job and wonder what the Lord is up to.

But, ultimately this story invites us to face the world and all its challenges with God or simply become bitter, angry people who cast faith away. All I know is that for me God sees me through these challenges, and always has done, which is why my faith keeps me going even with all the aches and pains.

Love and prayers,

Terry

## SERVICES IN MARCH 2020

Sunday 1st	10.30am	Rev. Terry Wright Stewards: Rodney & Shirley Carder
Sunday 8th	10.30am	David Ball Stewards: John Crowther
Sunday 15th	10.30am	Deborah Spinks Stewards: Rodney & Shirley Carder
Sunday 22nd	10.30am	Rev. David Graham HC Mothering Sunday Stewards: John Crowther
Sunday 29th	10.30am	Mrs. Pat Woodison Passion Sunday Stewards: Rodney & Shirley Carder

## CHURCH CARE

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

March

1 <sup>st</sup>	Brenda
8 <sup>th</sup>	Paul
15 <sup>th</sup>	Rodney and Shirley
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Brenda
29 <sup>th</sup>	Paul

## Prayer Diary for March

1<sup>st</sup> March The First Sunday in Lent

THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March

Services will be held at Chislehurst MC @ 10.15am

St Nicholas @ 1.30pm

Christ Church @ 7.30pm

These Services have been put together by the women of Zimbabwe

The General Secretary of the MC in Zimbabwe writes;

Dear Lord we give thanks for all who carry out your work in the challenging economic and political situation in ZIMBABWE and for the aid organisations who continue to support poor communities.

We pray for new generations of politicians who will prioritise programmes that will uplift the poor such as job creation where millions of school leavers have never been employed.

We pray for the Church in Africa that it may be a champion for peace and justice in a continent ravaged by conflict and misrule.

Amen

8<sup>th</sup> March The Second Sunday in Lent

The Church is One Foundation

Praying with Christians throughout East Africa.

A Prayer written by John Scotus Erlgena who lived between 810 & 877AD

Grant, O God, that we may be united to you and to our neighbour with an undivided love: serve you and your children with an undivided heart and reverence you and your creation with an undivided will: through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

15<sup>th</sup> March The Third Sunday in Lent  
Praying with Christians in the Middle East

A prayer from Angeleena Keizer who is Mission Partner for Israel/Palestine

Dear Lord, we give thanks for those engaged in non-violent ways of ending unequal power in ISRAEL/PALESTINE and who work for just solutions to end occupation.

For projects where Israelis and Arabs live, work and educate together revealing the possibilities of peaceful co-existence.

We pray for the people of Gaza whose freedom of movement is greatly restricted and for the Jerusalem Methodist Liaison Office and its Mission Partners who have answered your call to serve in this area.

May Peace, Justice and Reconciliation be a reality for all who live in the Holy Land.

Amen

22<sup>nd</sup> March Mothering Sunday

Gordon Handley writes;

**PRAYER** Lord we thank you that through the loving care of one mother your care for all humankind was revealed by the life of her child. We thank you for her example and ask your blessing upon all mothers whatever their circumstances. We pray for abandoned, abused and impoverished mothers living in stressful conditions without support. Bless agencies who try to help them. We pray also for mothers who have lost a child and women who have never known the joy of motherhood.

Amen

29<sup>th</sup> March Passion Sunday

We pray for the people of COLUMBIA. That the peace they are now enjoying may enable them to put aside the memory of all the suffering they have been through, so that they can utter this prayer penned by;

Richard Cranshaw who lived in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century;

Jesus, by your wounded feet, direct our path. Jesus, by your nailed hands, move us to deeds of love. Jesus, by your pierced side, purify our desires. Jesus by your broken heart, knit ours to yours.

Amen

Dates for your Diary, at Chelsfield Methodist Church

10<sup>th</sup> March 2pm A Combined House Group is to be started at the home of Gordon & Gladys Handley led by our Minister Revd Terry Wright who will conduct a monthly Bible Study.

Please let Gordon know if you are going to be there so that he has an idea of how many to cater for. [gandghandley@talktalk.net](mailto:gandghandley@talktalk.net)

12<sup>th</sup> April EASTER DAY Service - Revd Tony Windsor with Holy Communion.

10<sup>th</sup> May CHURCH ANNIVERSARY Service with Revd John Tranter, Rector of St Martins Chelsfield leading our worship and with the possibility of the Acafellas giving their vocal support (tbc)

## **The period of LENT is with us – How can I best observe it and why?**

The three key elements of Lent are PRAYER, FASTING AND GIVING.

### PRAYER

Set aside time for Prayer – if this is difficult then try and have some quiet time as you go about your tasks, resisting the temptation to listen to the radio or other devices. When our lives are full of noise prayer becomes distant. Try and pay attention to your temptations and anxieties (which are often the same). What are your choices? How do you decide? Will you make a point of attending worship/communion? Not only do you need to pray for guidance in your own life but for others and be prepared to listen for a response. Remember that in prayer it is often that short and simple is best.

### FASTING

Lent is a wonderful opportunity to review our habits and lifestyle. Ask yourself what do I control and what is trying to control me? What have I become dependent upon, and why? What is helping me and what is not? FASTING can be hard but also liberating. In a world of excess, waste and pollution, doing with less and going without can have a cleansing effect as well as liberating. Remember that love, life and relationships are dependent on discipline and self-control which is where FASTING can help us to focus on this.

### GIVING

GIVING links to FASTING. By saving money in FASTING we could add this to our charitable GIVING.

Lent gives us that opportunity to take stock of our spiritual life so that as we grow on our walk with Jesus we will discover the need for discipline but recognise that this might result in suffering, as Christ became fully aware of as He led the Way to Eternal Life, demonstrating a Love that never dies.

*The above has been reproduced, with thanks, from a piece written by Revd MATTHEW HUGHES the Rector of St Giles, Farnborough, in their March 2019 Parish Magazine.*

## AN INTRODUCTION TO LENT

Lent may have originally followed Epiphany, just as Jesus' sojourn in the wilderness followed after His baptism, but it soon became attached to Easter as the principal occasion for baptism and for the reconciliation of those who had been excluded from the Church for serious faults or apostasy. The historical characteristics of LENT being; self-examination, penitence, self-denial, study and preparation for Easter. Subsequently alms giving was added.

Now is the healing time decreed  
For sins of heart and word and deed,  
When we in humble fear record  
The wrong that we have done The LORD

As the candidates for baptism were instructed in Christian faith and as penitents prepared themselves, through fasting and penance for readmission the Communion, the whole community was invited to join with them in the process of study and repentance. This took place over 40-days reminding them of Jesus' 40-days in the wilderness, being tested by Satan.

Ashes are an ancient sign of penitence. The custom of marking the forehead with the sign of the cross with ashes originated in the middle ages and is customarily done on Ash Wednesday, the start of Lent. During the season Churches are kept bare, with no flowers, but on Mothering Sunday (forth Sunday) there is a break from austerity to recognise mothers and this possibly ties in with the Feast of the Annunciation.

As Holy Week approaches the season darkens with the readings anticipating the story of Christ's suffering and death, with the fifth Sunday named Passion Sunday.

A modern devotional exercise is illustrated by the Franciscan monks use Holy Week to illustrate the Stations of the Cross, having been granted custody of the Christian sites in the Holy Land.

## 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)  
8.00 – 9.00pm      Pilates

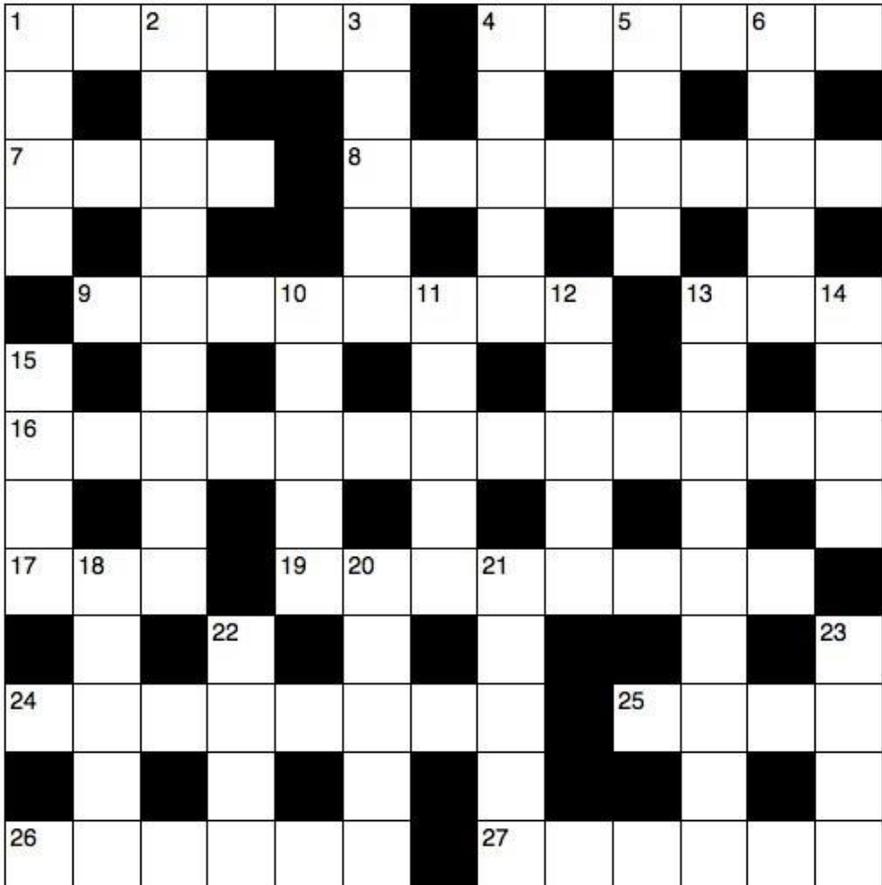
### **Fridays:**

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

# Puzzle Pages



## Crossword Clues

### Across

- 1 The earth is one (6)
- 4 'On a hill far away stood an old — cross' (6)
- 7 'I am the — vine and my Father is the gardener' (John 15:1) (4)
- 8 The Caesar who was Roman Emperor at the time of Jesus' birth (Luke 2:1) (8)
- 9 'Your — should be the same as that of Christ Jesus' (Philippians 2:5) (8)

- 13 Jesus said that no one would put a lighted lamp under this (Luke 8:16) (3)
- 16 Involvement (1 Corinthians 10:16) (13)
- 17 Armed conflict (2 Chronicles 15:19) (3)
- 19 Where the Gerasan pigs were feeding (Mark 5:11) (8)
- 24 What jeering youths called Elisha on the road to Bethel (2 Kings 2:23) (8)
- 25 The Venerable — , eighth-century Jarrow ecclesiastical scholar (4)
- 26 8 Across issued a decree that this should take place (Luke 2:1) (6)
- 27 Come into prominence (Deuteronomy 13:13) (6)

### Down

- 1 Where some of the seed scattered by the sower fell (Matthew 13:4) (4)
- 2 Sexually immoral person whom God will judge (Hebrews 13:4) (9)
- 3 Gospel leaflet (5)
- 4 Physical state of the boy brought to Jesus for healing (Mark 9:18)
- 5 Tugs (anag.) (4)
- 6 To put forth (5)
- 10 Nationality associated with St Patrick (5)
- 11 Leader of the descendants of Kohath (1 Chronicles 15:5) (5)
- 12 'After this, his brother came out, with his hand grasping — heel' (Genesis 25:26) (5)
- 13 At Dothan the Lord struck the Arameans with — at Elisha's request (2 Kings 6:18) (9)
- 14 'Peter, before the cock crows today, you will — three times that you know me' (Luke 22:34) (4)
- 15 Spit out (Psalm 59:7) (4)
- 18 'When I — , I am still with you' (Psalm 139:18) (5)
- 20 Concepts (Acts 17:20) (5)
- 21 Thyatira's dealer in purple cloth (Acts 16:14) (5)
- 22 Does (anag.) (4)
- 23 The second set of seven cows in Pharaoh's dream were this (Genesis 41:19) (4)

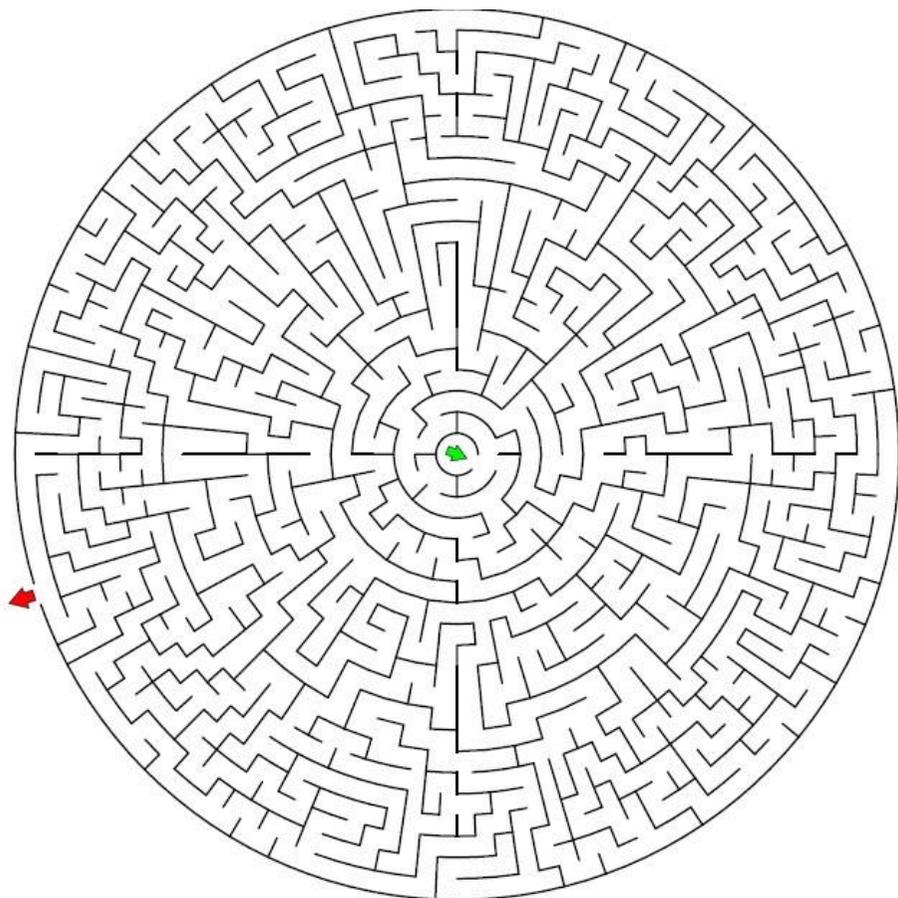
## Answers for the February Newsletter

### ACROSS:

8, Cross-examined. 9, Ash. 10, Apocrypha. 11, Sci-fi. 13, Typical. 16, Visited.  
19, Offer. 22, No account. 24, RAC. 25, Sovereign Lord.

### DOWN:

1, Oceans. 2, Hophni. 3, Islamist. 4, Exhort. 5, Omar. 6, On spec. 7, Add all.  
12, CBI. 14, Plotting. 15, Awe. 16, Vanish. 17, Starve. 18, Daub it. 20, Furrow.  
21, Recede. 23, Cure.





# **RAINBOW TOTS**

**Every Friday 1:30 – 3:00pm**

**(term time)**

**In the Church**

**£1 per family**

# Church Family News

TRIBUTES TO JANET MARY MASON 30<sup>th</sup> Aug 1943 to 8<sup>th</sup>

Dec.2019

Janet was a long-term member of our Church who 7-years ago developed a crippling disease called Lewys Bodies Dementia. Coupled with Parkinson's Disease she had to leave her home in Albert Road and enter a care home in Sevenoaks where she was well looked after but being single her family (brother/sister-in-law) decided after 4-years it would be better if she could be moved nearer them as they living in Garstang, Preston.

They found a most hospitable Nursing Home in Lancaster where she has been ever since, dying on the 8<sup>th</sup> December. Her funeral was on the 20<sup>th</sup> Dec.

Her family were not acquainted with the details of her activities in our Church life so here are some fond reminiscences of Janet by those who did know her at Chelsfield MC;

Eileen Staines\* remembers the opportunities that enabled her and friends to work together such as, putting up Christmas tree lights; decorating the Church at harvest; singing in the choir of the various productions staged in the Church and, planning visits to NT properties on a Saturday morning in the café (across the road from the Church), which they would either visit on public transport or in Janet's car.

Eleanor Mullins writes; When organising Christmas lunches for people who lived alone (an annual affair) Janet was very

insistent that the caterers at Lullingstone should know what dietary needs had to be accommodated. With my diet she went through every little detail with them ensuring that I didn't appear to miss out. Very thoughtful.

On my 70<sup>th</sup> birthday she and Shirley Cawthorne\* took me to the Tate Modern to a Mark Rothko Exhibition. I love his work and we spent the whole day there. I even got to walk the Millennium Bridge which had just been reopened after safety concerns. I was very excited by this and to commemorate the event Janet made me my own, "I have walked the Millennium Bridge" badge. I still have it!

On the occasions that the Church put on special events Janet was always there willing to roll up her sleeves and do her bit in the kitchen washing dishes in HOT water and act as an invaluable "backroom" worker with no fuss or show.

When she became unwell I would accompany her on slow, short walks which was quite an achievement for her but for which she was most grateful. (I recall that Rodney followed at a discrete distance in case she collapsed or needed help. ("You are NOT NEEDED!" she insisted when she spied Rodney).

Although Janet could come across as forthright, sometimes quite blunt, this was part of her personality which helped her cope with life. Seeing her cry when we had to leave, following a visit to the Sunrise Residential Care Home she was in, showed how she genuinely felt about our friendship. A thoughtful, kind and loyal friend.

Jill Edmonds tells of her appreciation Janet's willingness to look after her dog, Mandy and later on Tabby, when she went

abroad with Reg and on shorter holiday breaks in the UK. She could always trust Janet with them which was so reassuring.

Norma Green writes; I was very much aware of Janet's love of horses as my daughter was involved at the Chelsfield Riding Stables and that was where Janet did wonderful work with Riding for the Disabled.

Her Brother Roger writes; Her love of horses was life long and this showed in the great number of books she had from Pat Smythe to the regular Horse and Hound periodical. (It is possible a fall she had out riding could have contributed to her illness. Roger's mother-in-law died very shortly after Janet at the age of 97 [Ed])

Janet is survived by her brothers Roger and Victor.

(\*Janet, Sylvia Pope, Shirley Cawthorne and Eileen Staines adopted the collective title of "The Pleasure Seekers" as they sought to improve their cultural knowledge with new experiences. Ed.)



Janet with one of the horses at Chelsfield Riding Stables

## Thought for the Month

Be on your guard ; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong

1 Corinthians 16:13

If you wish to contribute to the April Newsletter, may I have your items by Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March.

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.**