

December 2017/January 2018

# Common News



Newsletter of the West Wickham and Hayes Methodist Church

No.





Minister in Pastoral Charge

**Rev. Karen George** ☎ 8460 0669 ✉ [20kmgeorge@gmail.com](mailto:20kmgeorge@gmail.com)

Minister with Pastoral Care

**Deacon Laura MacBean** ☎ 8249 8592 ✉ [laura.macbean@googlemail.com](mailto:laura.macbean@googlemail.com)

Dear Friends,

As we approach Christmas and enter into the new year beyond, I am reminded of how important the theology of the incarnation is to us. The incarnation is of course just a theological term for the idea of 'God with us'. John's gospel chapter 1 gives such a beautiful picture of the God who created all yet came 'to dwell among us'. Christmas can be such a hectic time for many, but let's pause as we enter this period and hold that thought gently and reverently: Christmas is the time when we celebrate 'God with us'—not the God far removed and distant who condemns us to a life of confusion and sin, but the God who stepped down among us, the God who took on our frailties, the God who experienced our temptations, and the God who offers us a living hope.



I was recently asked to share some thoughts that had come to mind when preaching at the crematorium service for our beloved Vera Collins, long-standing pastoral secretary of West Wickham Methodist Church. I shared how we as a family have been learning to therapeutically parent a child with attachment difficulties. We have learnt to use the phrase 'I've got you' for those moments when our daughter struggles with her big emotions, when life feels overwhelming and when stress responses can lead us all into poor choices—to hold her close, to offer her security and to help her know she is understood even when she is unable to handle her own feelings. At Vera's service I spoke of how I felt God was saying to all of us: 'I've got you'. And I think that is part of what the incarnation is about—not only is it the story of God stepping into

our world and saying 'I am with you' but God also stepping into our mixed-up humanity with its mixed emotions and times of difficulty and saying 'I get it. I see how you are feeling. I see how hard this being human thing is. And I've got you.' He says: 'I've got you when you are feeling ill; I've got you when you have lost a loved one; I've got you when you need direction; I've got you when you have been hurt by others; I've got you when life is confusing; I've got you when life is joyous and you want it to last forever. I've got you. I am here with you. I've got you.'

May you find this is true this Christmas and as we enter the unknown future of 2018 and beyond, God is with us. And God has got us – in his hand, in his heart, in his thoughts, in his plans for our future, in his love and in his understanding of our mixed-up human lives. 'I've got you,' says God. Rest in that.

And have a blessed Advent, Christmas and New Year.

Yours in His Service

*Laura*



## REGULAR INCOME

Average weekly Sunday offering to <b>29 October</b> .....	<b>£475</b>
Target weekly Sunday average .....	<b>£800</b>
Average weekly lettings .....	<b>£751</b>



Methodist relief and development

Please remember to donate your pennies to the *All We Can East Africa Famine Appeal* for the emergencies in South Sudan, Nigeria, Yemen, Somalia and other countries threatened by famine. It's a race against time to prevent a major disaster so please support this with all YOU can.

# Wickham Watch

## NEWS OF THE FAMILY

**ANNIVERSARY** We send our congratulations to **Alan and Winona D'Albert** who celebrate their Ruby Wedding Anniversary (40 years of marriage) on **10th December 2017**.



**BIRTHDAYS** Happy Birthday wishes to **Betty Powell** and **John Manuell** who celebrate their birthdays in December, and to **Sophie Ella Wood** (of our Cradle Role) who will be six on 3rd January.

**WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS** **Linnett Anderson** who is recovering from a knee operation, and **Margaret Ford** who spent time in hospital and respite care but has now returned home.



## CHURCH ACTIVITIES



will meet at 11.00 am on **Tuesday 5th December** in Corza for a Christmas Brunch.

**FELLOWSHIP GROUP CHRISTMAS TEA PARTY** will be on **Sunday 17th December at 4.30 pm**. £4.50 (children free). Add your name to the list in church or email [judesel@ntlworld.com](mailto:judesel@ntlworld.com).



**CHURCHES TOGETHER** will be hosting a screening of *The Shack* on **Wednesday 17th January 2018 @ 7.30 pm at Emmanuel** as a start to the week of prayer for Christian Unity.

**MESSY CHURCH** will meet on **27th January** for a Family -friendly Beetle Drive with the Fellowship Group, followed by a tea—see page 19.



Christina Messenger thanks everybody for their generous donations to the **appeal supporting the people of Myanmar**. She has sent Christian Aid a cheque for £134.26.


**THE SCOUTS** are still collecting used postage stamps to raise funds for the Leprosy Mission. Please leave a 5 mm border around the stamps and leave them in the box in the display alcove (near the sound system) at the back of the church.



## OTHER LOCAL ACTIVITIES

**WEST WICKHAM & SHIRLEY BAPTIST CHURCH**, Wickham Road/ Monks Orchard Road, offers a **Lunch Club on Mondays at 12.30pm**. A hot lunch costs £6. Booking is essential on 020 8777 5705.



 **MATCHBOX THEATRE** present *Jumpy* by April De Angelis from **30th November to 2nd December at 8.00 pm** at St Francis Church Hall. Tickets £8 from 0845 680 4568.

**This play is not suitable for children under 14 years.**

**DAME CICELY SAUNDERS CONCERTS** are held on the first Thursday of the month at **7.30 pm at St Christopher's Hospice, Sydenham**. £10 tickets include interval canapés and wine. The last concert of the 2017 series will be on **7th December** when Mick Sands and friends return with haunting and yearning melodies and toe tapping music on fiddle, flute, pipes, guitar, bodhran on a Celtic winter/Christmas theme.



**HAYES FREE CHURCH CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL** will be open **10.30 am to 6.30 pm from Saturday 2nd to Sunday 10th December**. Free admission but a collection box for the Bromley Y charity will be available for donations.

For details see <http://www.hayesfreechurch.com/sample.htm>

**ST. FRANCIS CHURCH CHRISTMAS LUNCH** for senior citizens and those living alone will be served in the church hall on **Sunday 10th December at 12.30 am**. Tickets £10 for a 3-course lunch (vegetarian option) plus a glass of wine. Booking (in advance only) from Barbara on 020 8777 8783.



**SOUTH LONDON SINGERS** present *Carols for Charity*, in aid of St Christopher's Hospice, at **Beckenham Methodist Church (Bromley Road) on Saturday 16th December at 7.45 pm**.

### God's Plan for Aging - part 1

Most seniors never get enough exercise. In His wisdom God decreed that seniors become forgetful so they would have to search for their glasses, keys and other things, thus doing more walking. And God looked down and saw that it was good.

# FLOWERS IN CHURCH

## December

3rd  
Flower Fund  
10th  
Flower Fund  
17th  
Christmas Flowers  
24th  
Christmas Flowers  
31st  
Christmas Flowers

## January

7th  
Christmas Flowers  
14th  
Flower Fund  
21st  
Flower Fund  
28th  
Flower Fund

If you would like to provide the flowers  
please add your name to the  
list at the back of the Church

## **Save on Christmas Cards and benefit the NASIO Trust**

Messy Church are aiming to produce an A3 community Christmas card which you can use as a joint festive message. Rather than sending individual Christmas cards to all your friends at Church, why not send your Christmas wishes by signing our giant community card and donate what you would have spent to the NASIO Trust in Kenya—one of our special charities.

**Our special Messy Church community card will be  
available at the beginning of December.**



# CHURCH FLOWERS APPEAL



Historically there has always been a team of flower arrangers, as many of you will remember, but for a long time there has been mainly only me arranging the flowers most weeks and watering them up to twice during the week as well. Having been responsible for 11 years I am beginning to find the role very tiring and demanding and feel I need more help.

Sometimes the flowers last just for one week and sometimes for 2 or 3 weeks depending on the freshness of the flowers and the time of year. I still enjoy doing the flowers but need assistance so that I am not committed every week. I wondered if a Flower Arranger Team could be set up with 6+ people volunteering for a month or two during the year. This would mean that each would be responsible for a whole month and therefore be able to monitor the flowers and replace them as necessary in line with the flower rota

It is important to recognise that there are already a couple of people who will put their name down on the flower rota and also arrange their flowers. This is very much appreciated but a more official way of organising the flowers now seems appropriate. A Formal arrangement of flowers is not essential. A vase of flowers would look just as beautiful and inspiring.”

I am prepared to carry on as now until the end of February but would like to have something in place by then. I am also prepared to continue to be involved for the special church seasons when more time is needed to mark these occasions. I do hold a modest flower fund which arrangers can use as I do, which is funded by members of the congregation on an ad hoc basis.

Please consider the above and let me know if you could help. This may not be the only way of organising it and it may be that someone has another idea to manage the flowers which I would be grateful to hear about.

Margaret Cornwell





## Vera Collins

### A tribute by John Manwell

Rita and I knew just the fringes of Vera's long life. We first met her in 1971 when we moved to 6 Goodhart Way and she lived at number 16. We admired the fact that although about 48 years old Vera was learning to drive. Having failed her first test she was apprehensive about retaking it so I said I'd go with her in her car on a regular basis to give her some practice. When she passed her test she was overjoyed and that very evening took her parents for a drive to Tower Bridge. About two weeks later she went touring by car with her parents to the far north of England visiting relatives and places of interest.

In 1975 we went abroad for 13 years but Vera kept in touch with us and gave us news of the church, though not in depth as she was not one for gossip or tittle tattle.

Vera lived with her parents all their lives. She and her mother were great companions while her relationship with her Dad was generally good but could be rocky as Vera had her own opinions and was not a 'yes' person.

Vera had a sense of humour and I remember one of her tales was about a trip to an appointment at Guys Hospital on a windy day. Soon after alighting at London Bridge Station she was blown over by a strong gust of wind. A guardian angel helped her up and called for a taxi and as she left the taxi she handed the driver a £5 note which was blown from her hand by a blast of wind. A second guardian angel ran down the street and retrieved it for her. After her appointment she was worried about the journey home but a third guardian angel hearing her enquiry about getting home offered to take her all the way to West Wickham as he was going that way.

Two years ago when she broke her leg and Rita and I were in and out of her house on many occasions we realised that Vera generously donated to almost every charity in the country. We also realised that she had good neighbours on both sides, Julie and David and Veronica and John who did shopping, gardening and odd jobs for her. And she also had loyal friends and work mates and relatives like Christine, Sabina, Brenda and the Corbys.



Vera was very active in church life. She used her driving skills to give people lifts to church for many years. She was a very conscientious pastoral visitor and secretary of the Pastoral Group and took the job very seriously, spending hours typing up Minutes and distributing them. She put herself out greatly to visit her pastoral flock or keep in touch by phone. She was also famous with the church ladies who served coffee as the one who only wanted five grains of instant coffee in her cup!

Vera was very much her own person in her views. I once suggested to her that she used Gift Aid with her donations and she told me that the Government needed all her tax money for the NHS, Education, Defence etc., while I had always thought that the less tax they took from me the better!

When Social Services wanted to come round to her house to help with housework and shopping after she had broken her leg, she refused their aid saying other people needed their services more than she did! She didn't want to be a bother to anyone and, as Derek Stanworth said, she was an example to everyone in how to manage old age.

We shall miss you Vera. God Bless you.

### **What Christmas Means To Me:**

Easter 1987 was the first time that it dawned on me that without the Birth, the Crucifixion and the Resurrection of Jesus there would be no promise of forgiveness and life eternal, and being a Christian would have no meaning. With that belief in mind, my life was transformed because having the promise of God's Love for me, unconditionally, all I had to do was take His hand and that was it—comfort, peace and Joy.

May you know the Joy and Peace of Christmas and the continuing companionship of Christ throughout the coming year.

Love and Blessings

Linnett Anderson

xx

# PRAYING MATTERS

This is a reminder to everyone that our church has a 'Praying Together' group which now meets once a month for an hour on a Wednesday at 8.00 pm at Joye Miles' place, 32 Riverside Walk. We meet to pray for our church and its work, our members and church friends, the community in which we live, each other and situations in our country and the world. If you would like us to pray for you or a situation close to your heart, please contact Laura or Joye whose details are on the back of this newsletter.

## Future Dates

13 December	17 January	7 February	14 March	11 April
30 May	20 June	25 July	None in August	

## Prayer List

If you would like to put a name forward for regular inclusion on our Prayer Matters page so that people can pray for you or a situation you know of at home, please email names to the newsletter editors.

"Our prayers may be awkward. Our attempts may be feeble. But since the power of prayer is in the one who hears it and not in the one who says it, our prayers do make a difference."

Max Lucado

**Generous God,  
throughout this day,  
lighten our tasks and shine through  
our speaking.  
May we reflect your love in our lives,  
your presence in our world,  
and our trust and hope in you. AMEN.**

## Prayer Contributions Requested

You may have noticed that we have been starting each service with a special prayer for peace or a prayer for reflection as we light a candle. This is a way for us to focus our hearts and minds and the signal for worship to begin. We would love it if people from church would write or find prayers that we can use on a Sunday morning during this time at the beginning of our services.

Please do bring your contributions to church and give them to one of the stewards. We will make sure we use them over the course of the year.

Thank you.

Laura

## QUARTERLY PRAYER BREAKFASTS

On 18th November we held the first of our prayer breakfasts this Connexional year. The theme was Celtic Spirituality. The meeting started with pastries and coffee/tea, and then we shared in Celtic Morning Prayer from the Northumbria Community. Attendees went on to visit various prayer stations detailing aspects of Celtic Spirituality (nature, the cosmos, the Trinity, creativity, pilgrimage) inviting people to pray in different ways. There was also some information on Celtic Spirituality in general.

The next prayer breakfasts will be on the following Saturdays (9.15 to 10.15 am)

3 February led by Laura MacBean. Theme: *Holy Habits*.

28 April led by Clive Timehin and Laura MacBean. Theme TBA.

7 July led by Clive Timehin. Theme TBA.

Please do come along and support this initiative to help us focus on our spiritual growth outside of Sunday services.

We would love to see you!



**THE NEW**  
**West Wickham**  
**Methodist Church**  
**website is now live**

<https://wmmchaweslane.weebly.com>

The site is still undergoing development but already contains much up-to-date and useful information so do visit it regularly.

It has been created by a local resident Jess Lines who, in conjunction with Laura, has kindly volunteered her time to design and maintain the site.

Jess is a freelance website creator and writer and can be contacted at  
Jess\_Lines@hotmail.com 078999 62367

## **A Plan for Church Growth**

Subjects suggested in conversations on 18 October 2017

About twelve people met at the church. Several people had sent an apology for absence and some of them had made suggestions for consideration which are included in the list below..

Related comments are also included.

- Be an outward looking church.
- Continue to be very welcoming and caring.
- Respond better to spoken "good morning" and similar greetings to the congregation.
- Singing to be reinvigorated.
- The range of hymns and songs to be extended.
- Try to keep worship content and procedure easily understood and followed by people new to church.
- Keep sermons within 10 minute sessions and service length within an hour.  
An earlier finish may encourage a greater participation in staying for 'getting to know you' conversation.
- Increase communication with nearby residents, perhaps with a leaflet about church news three or four times a year. Possibly display in Library and doctors' surgeries.
- A stall at fairs and markets.
- Improve church website, keep it refreshed, and extend use of Facebook posts.
- Install large screen and obtain digital projector to improve visual aids in church.
- Provide paths for the discovery of faith through the ideas of respected theologians of the 20th and 21st centuries. Easily believable truths which will attract the curiosity of someone who has no Christian faith.
- Occasional services which include references to the nature and treatment of illnesses. Also well-being and mindfulness.

### **Actual notes from hospital charts**

The patient refused autopsy.

The patient has no previous history of suicides.

The second day the knee was better and on the third day it disappeared.

Discharge status: Alive but without permission.

She is numb from her toes down.

The skin was moist and dry and patient was alert and unresponsive.

I saw your patient today, who is still under our care for physical therapy.

Patient has two teenage children, but no other abnormalities.

## **Church Redevelopment Update No. 7**

In update No. 6 we explained that the pre-planning application submitted to Bromley Council resulted in a negative response to our proposals for 21 flats for retired people. This was primarily due to parking concerns and the fact that we are not on a bus route. We also explained that they were positively disposed to the redevelopment of our church premises for church and community use and did not have many concerns about this aspect of our plans.

Since then, John Spence has been able to produce new plans for housing that will cross subsidise our own new premises. These will be on display in church until further notice. He has also approached three developers to find out if they would be interested in partnering with us on such a scheme. One has responded favourably (Selsdon Building Contractors), one has yet to respond and one (McCulloch Homes Limited) has responded negatively as they no longer wish to work with churches. On 18th October some members of the Redevelopment Team met John Spence to discuss the new plans.

## **Church Redevelopment Update No. 8**

Since Update No. 7 the Redevelopment Team have taken the following actions:

- Contacted TMCP and clarified that we need a survey indicating all the options and recommendations for what is in our best interests as a charity.
- Contacted three independent qualified surveyors and obtained quotes from two of them for an independent qualified surveyor's report on our plans.
- Contacted Proctors whether any developers would be interested in a joint venture/partnership with us—nine developers respond positively.
- Contacted the Connexional Property Officer for the Methodist Church who recommended one of the surveyors they use and who will give us with the name of a second solicitor to quote for legal costs for the work.
- Reported to Church council on 16 November 2017 which delegated to the redevelopment team the right to choose the independent surveyor we consider best suited to the task once we have received the three quotes.

Please note that we are unable to proceed further until we have our qualified surveyor's report. We will then report back the results of that report and take the next steps in the Property Consents process, depending on the outcome of that report.

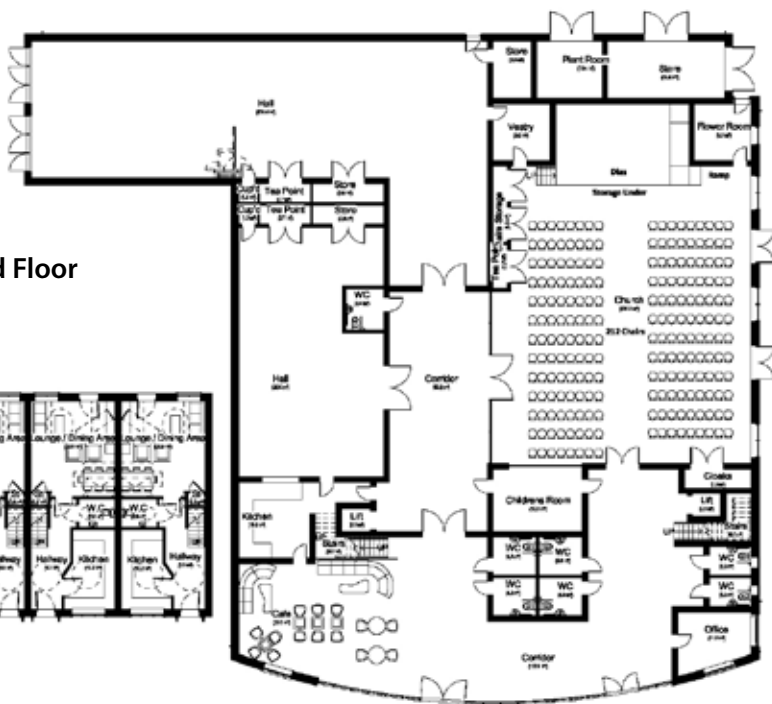
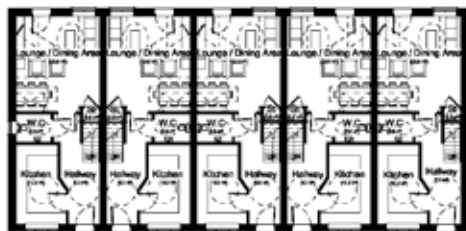
The Redevelopment Team  
24 November 2017

**Editor's Note: Site views and floor plans are shown on the following pages.**

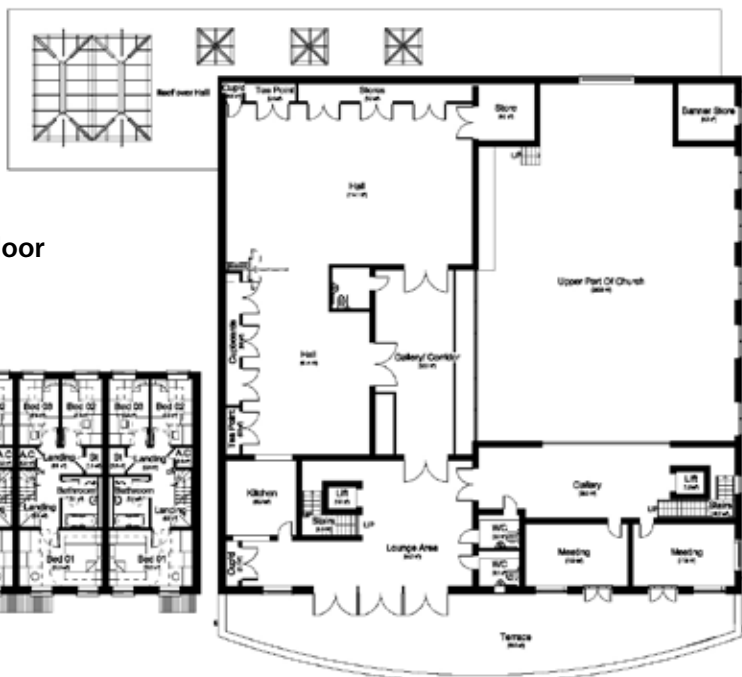
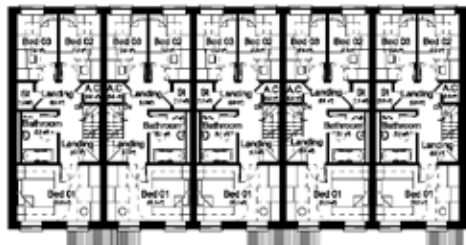
# THE LATEST REDEVELOPMENT



## Ground Floor



## First Floor



## News from the Baby and Toddler Group

Following the retirement of our Mothers and Toddlers Club leader and volunteers in July 2017, I suggested it would be good to try to find other volunteers and for me to run the group from September to December on a trial basis to see whether we were likely to get any new members.



The new group, renamed Baby and Toddler Group, started up again on 11 September with an advert placed on our church Facebook page and then shared to other local Facebook pages. Some advertising had also been done to people who attended the two *Café and Craft Stay and Play* clubs in the Summer holidays. I also report our sessions on Facebook from time to time and am

encouraging all new members to like our Church Facebook page.

Jenny Kench, a local mum who used to come to Mothers and Toddlers, is working as a volunteer alongside me. I have spoken with another mum who is training as a Montessori preschool teacher and will be available from March to volunteer as well. As I am sometimes on my own if Jenny is not available, we now have a self-service refreshment station and visitors have been enjoying filter coffee, assorted teas and a variety of snacks (at this stage mainly left over from the café and craft club in the holidays!).



To try to build up a greater sense of the group as part of the life of the church, I have started a penny collection for Action for Children. Some local mums are running a charity called The Lily Trust, providing toiletry packs in pretty gift bags for women who have been rescued from modern slavery or trafficking here in

London. We now have a donation station during each session for this purpose.





Our Christmas party will be on Monday 11 December from 11.00 am to 2.00 pm and at the suggestion of Rev. Karen George, we are holding a scratch nativity in church before lunch is served. Children are being invited to come dressed in nativity clothes. Santa might even pay a visit. During lunch, the leader of The Lily Trust will

be speaking to us all about their work and one of her volunteers will also be joining us.

We now have 36 children and 30 adults who have registered since 11 September. Sessions run from 1.30 to 3.45 pm and adults who attend are very helpful in tidying up afterwards. Given the numbers we have at the moment, it is well worth continuing beyond December, but we may well need to increase our charges a little, especially in view of the refreshments now being 'on tap' so to speak.



My thanks go to Jenny Kench for joining us as a volunteer. I would also like to express my thanks once more to Margaret England and all the other volunteers who ran the group, especially those who recently retired. They gave decades of dedicated service to the church's community outreach through the Mothers and Toddlers Club and I for one am very pleased to be able to build on their good work.

Laura

### **Signs that didn't quite hit the mark**

In a Swiss mountain inn: Special today - no ice cream.

At an airport in Denmark: We take your bags and send them in all directions.

In a New York restaurant: Customers who find our waitresses rude ought to see the manager.

# Brownies\*

We have been working towards the World Cultures badge this term which has involved making animal masks, a collage showing women and girls around the world, Mexican eyes, and we are due to make St Nicklaus biscuits as I write this. We have made promise boxes to remind us of our promise and we took part in the Remembrance Day service at the Church.

At the meeting nearest to bonfire night we did apple bobbing (which meant some of us got rather wet!), went outside for sparklers, ate hotdogs and had a sing around a nonexistent campfire!

Presents have been made for Mummy and Daddy for Christmas and we are practising singing for our visit to Heydon Court to sing to the residents before Christmas. We will be having a party on the last meeting of term.

Two girls will make their promise before the end of term and we have a third member who will, hopefully, do so at the beginning of next year.

I am running the unit this term with a rota of helpers but would love to have an assistant leader, so if anyone is interested or would like to find out more about the Guiding adult leadership scheme, please speak to me.

My thanks must go to the Mums who have volunteered, my sister, Tracy Davies (who stepped in as a qualified leader when need be), Margaret Cornwell, and John Clouston who is helping us prepare to sing at Heydon Court.

Wishing everyone a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year!

Caroline Thomas  
(Brown Owl)

It was Christmas Eve in a supermarket and a woman was anxiously picking over the last few remaining turkeys in the hope of finding a large one. In desperation, she called over a shop assistant and said: 'Excuse me. Do these turkeys get any bigger?'  
He patiently replied: 'No, sorry, they're all dead.'

**SOUL SPACE**  
**CAFE & CRAFT CLUB**

**WEST WICKHAM METHODIST CHURCH**  
**Hawes Lane BR4 9AA**  
**21st December 2017**  
**10.00 am – 12.00 noon**

The children from the Bromley Methodist Junior Church have designed the cover for this year's ABCD Christmas card. The cards are being sold to support *Action around Bethlehem Children with Disability* and a specimen pack will be on display at the back of the church together with information on how to order the cards.

My minister friend put hot-air hand dryers in the toilets at his church and after two weeks, took them out. I asked him why and he confessed that they worked fine, but someone had scribbled on the dryer: 'For a sample of this week's sermon, push the button.'

Seen on driving instruction car around West Wickham  
 "No pupils are left in this car overnight!"



## **The Open Door Fellowship**

**meets on  
Monday afternoons  
from 2.00–3.30 pm  
in the Wesley Lounge  
at Beckenham (Bromley Road)  
church for conversation and  
light refreshments.**

**ALL WELCOME**

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**December 4th–*St Nicholas***  
**December 11th–*Christmas Thoughts***  
**CHRISTMAS BREAK**  
**January 8th–*Epiphany***  
**January 15th–The Very Rev. Ray Coster**  
**January 22nd–Christine Pope**  
**January 29th–Games Afternoon**



After the very interesting talk at the Harvest Service by Winston Webber and Peter Baffoe from the Bermondsey Mission I am sure we are all inspired to donate as much as we are able to such a very good cause.

Gifts that would be appreciated for Christmas are as follows:

Christmas hamper treats: Small Individual Christmas puddings; tinned ham, chicken, salmon and corned beef; small bars of chocolate and soft centred sweets. Also all the usual staples: tins, tea bags, drinking chocolate, baby nappies, shampoo, shaving foam etc.

Donations of money are also appreciated to purchase food vouchers for elderly people on special diets and to top up stocks for later in the year.

Thanking you all on behalf of the Bermondsey Mission.

Katie Pert  
(taken over as co-ordinator from Mavis)

## WHERE IS THE JUNGLE ?

On returning from teaching in Africa in the 60's , someone said to me "Oh you've been teaching in the jungle". I replied very firmly "No, the jungle is here in London".



Where I had been teaching in rural Tanzania and Zambia the people lived largely by subsistence agriculture with cassava and maize being an important basic food. The State and Local



Government played little part in people's lives. The family was the survival unit and so people took responsibility for their own lives. There was a certain structure in village life and people were aware of boundaries of behaviour and their responsibilities for children and old people. Of course it wasn't always ideal.

When I came back to teach in Inner London I remember feeling very helpless and useless in many of the social situations encountered while teaching. For example, a nine year old girl in my class called Christine was withdrawn, and unkempt so I told the Head and he arranged for us to see her Mum in his office. It was summer and when Mum turned up at the Headmaster's Office she was wearing a short sleeved summer dress and looked old beyond her years. The Head and myself saw her arms, glanced at one another and looked up to Heaven. He spoke kindly to her about nothing in particular and that was the end of it. About three years later she was dead.

The Head would meet up with psychiatrists and other well paid social service professionals to talk about various families where single mums with many children from different fathers were unable to cope with their own lives, let alone their numerous children's lives. He said that there was a lot of talk from these highly paid people, including himself, but with no one to take responsibility about these situations, it was just a waste of time.

I remember once that the Head used a special fund to buy clothes, beds, bedding and other furniture for a needy family, but It was soon pawned to feed the Dad's gambling habit. I could go on and on!

Yes the jungle is here in London.

John Manuell

# **Advent Course:** ***Walking Backwards to*** ***Christmas***



**Find out the story behind this picture**

**Tuesday evenings 7.30–9.00 pm**

- 5<sup>th</sup> Dec. St. Francis church, Ravenswood Ave.
- 12<sup>th</sup> Dec. Methodist church, Hawes Lane
- 19<sup>th</sup> Dec. Emmanuel church, The Grove

**Thursday mornings 10.30–12.00 noon**

- 7<sup>th</sup> Dec. St. Mary's church, The Avenue
- 14<sup>th</sup> Dec. Methodist church, Hawes Lane
- 21<sup>st</sup> Dec. Emmanuel church, The Grove



**WEST WICKHAM METHODIST CHURCH**  
**Hawes Lane BR4 9AA**

**2018 Saturdays 4.00–6.00 pm**

**27<sup>th</sup> January**

Family-friendly Beetle Drive with the  
Fellowship Group, followed by tea

**24<sup>th</sup> February**

Fairtrade Theme

**21<sup>st</sup> April**

Bible Roads

**19<sup>th</sup> May**

Bible Seaside

**23<sup>rd</sup> June**

Bible Mountains

A gentleman walked into a restaurant and asked the Maitre D' "Can you please tell me how you prepare your turkeys for Christmas?"

The Maitre D' solemnly replied: "Yes. Well, we let them know right up front they're not going to make it."

## SMILE (GROAN?) LINES

A group of 19 go to the cinema. When the ticket lady asks "Why so many of you?" one of them replies, "The film said 18 or over."

The Grim Reaper came for me last night, and I beat him off with a vacuum cleaner. Talk about Dyson with death.

I went to the cemetery yesterday to lay some flowers on a grave. As I was standing there I noticed four grave diggers walking about with a coffin. Three hours later and they're still walking about with it. I thought to myself, they've lost the plot!

My daughter asked me for a pet spider for her birthday, so I went to our local pet shop and they were £50! Blow this, I thought, I can get one cheaper off the web.

I start a new job in Seoul next week. I thought it was a good Korea move.

Statistically, six out of seven dwarfs are not Happy.

My neighbour knocked on my door at 2.30 am this morning, can you believe that, 2.30 am?! Luckily for him I was still up playing my Bagpipes.

I was explaining to my wife last night that when you die you get reincarnated but must come back as a different creature. She said she would like to come back as a cow. I said "You're obviously not listening."

The wife has been missing a week now. Police said to prepare for the worst. So I have been to the charity shop to get all her clothes back.

Local Police hunting the 'knitting needle nutter', who had stabbed six people in the rear in the last 48 hours, believe the attacker could be following some kind of pattern.


I bought some 'rocket salad' yesterday but it went off before I could eat it!

A teddy bear is working on a building site. He goes for a tea break and when he returns he notices his pick has been stolen. He is angry and reports the theft to the foreman. The foreman grins and says "Oh, I forgot to tell you, today's the day the teddy bears have their picks nicked."



# PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL THEATRE GROUPS

**BROMLEY CHURCHILL THEATRE**  
**15 - 19 MAY 2018**  
 7.30 pm plus 2.30 pm on Thursday & Saturday



**Cats**


Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber  
 based on *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats* by T.S. Eliot.  
 Orchestrations by David Cullen and Andrew Lloyd Webber.  
 Original production by Cameron Mackintosh Ltd and The Really Useful Group Ltd.  
 An amateur production by arrangement with the Really Useful Group Ltd.  
 Directed by Kevin Gauntlett Conducted by T.B.A  
 Choreographed by Danielle Dowsett

**WWOS** CHURCHILL THEATRE  
**020 8650 1552** **020 3285 6000**  
[wwos.org.uk/nextshow](http://wwos.org.uk/nextshow) [churchilltheatre.co.uk](http://churchilltheatre.co.uk)

Presented by Court & Press

**Wickham Theatre Centre**  
 Corkscrew Hill, West Wickham  
[www.theatre62.org.uk](http://www.theatre62.org.uk)

**19<sup>th</sup> ~ 24<sup>th</sup> February 2018**  
 at 8.00 pm



**HEDDA GABLER**

by Henrik Ibsen  
 A version by Christopher Hampton  
 Directed by Alice Heather

An amateur production  
 by arrangement with Samuel French Ltd.

**Ticket Enquiries from 19<sup>th</sup> January**  
**07542 716888**

Theatre 62 is a membership theatre with a licensed bar and is the production arm of Wickham Theatre Trust, Registered Charity and a Company

the hayes players

Alan Ayckbourn's  
**Bedroom Farce**



6 - 9 December 2017 7.45pm  
 Hayes Village Hall £8  
[www.hayesplayers.co.uk](http://www.hayesplayers.co.uk)  
 Box Office 07905 210718

in association with the production by central management and theatre, london ltd



**TREASURE LAND**  
 BY FRIDAY LAZEBY  
 DIRECTED BY JANE DUCKLAND

**Wed 8-Sat 16 Dec 2017**  
**at 7.45pm**

**bromley little theatre** North Street,  
 Bromley, BR1 1SB  
 0333 666 3366  
[www.bromleylittletheatre.org](http://www.bromleylittletheatre.org)

# Calendar

## December

- 3 Sunday 10.30 am Deacon Laura MacBean**  
Mission in Britain Advent Service
- 5 Tuesday 11.00 am Manse Mums Christmas Brunch
- 10 Sunday 10.30 am Deacon Laura MacBean**  
Parade Service
- 11 Monday 11.00 am Baby and Toddler Club party (see page 11)
- 13 Wednesday 8.00 pm Praying Together at 32 Riverside Walk (see page 9)
- 16 Saturday 3.00 pm **Deacon Laura MacBean**  
Carol Service for Mencap
- 17 Sunday 10.30 am Richard Baker**  
**4.30 pm Fellowship Group Christmas Tea Party**  
**6.30 pm Deacon Laura MacBean**  
Carols by Candlelight Service
- 21 Thursday 10.00 am Soul Space Cafe and Crafts
- 24 Sunday 10.30 am Rev. Karen George**  
Holy Communion  
**4.00 pm Deacon Laura MacBean**  
Crib Service
- 25 Monday 10.00 am Deacon Laura MacBean**  
Christmas Day All Age Worship
- 31 Sunday 10.30 am Circuit Service at Bromley Road**

## January

- 4 Thursday 1.30 pm Pastoral Visitors meeting (in the parlour)
- 7 Sunday 10.30 am Major Cliff Kent**
- 14 Sunday 10.30 am Rev. Karen George & Deacon Laura MacBean**  
Covenant Service and Holy Communion
- 17 Wednesday 8.00 pm Praying Together at 32 Riverside Walk (see page 9)
- 21 Sunday 10.30 am Rev. Ian Hamlin**  
\*\*\*Last date for February/March copy\*\*\*
- 22 Monday 8.00 pm Stewards Meeting
- 27 Saturday 4.00 pm Messy Church/Fellowship Group Beetle Drive and tea
- 28 Sunday 10.30 am Christina Messenger**

## CHURCHES TOGETHER IN WEST WICKHAM

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – January 2018

Thursday 18th	8.00pm	West Wickham & Shirley Baptist
Friday 19th	8.00pm	St Mark's
Saturday 20th	10.00am	Emmanuel
Sunday 21st	6.30pm	St Francis
Monday 22nd	8.00pm	St John's
Tuesday 23rd	8.00pm	West Wickham Methodist
Wednesday 24th	8.00pm	Coney Hill Baptist

Material for 2018 was produced in the Caribbean and uses Exodus 15, a song of triumph over oppression, as the motif of the Week of Prayer.

## Future Dates for your Diary

- Saturday 3rd February:** Prayer Breakfast
- Wednesday 7th February:** Praying Together at 32 Riverside Walk
- Thursday 8th February:** Church Council meeting
- Thursday 15th February:** Café and Craft Stay and Play 10.00 am to 12 noon
- Thursday 8th March:** Churches Together in WW Community Lunch  
hosted by WWMC at 12.45pm
- Wednesday 14th March:** Praying Together at 32 Riverside Walk
- 19th to 28th March:** Experience Easter for schools at WWMC
- Wednesday 11th April:** Praying Together at 32 Riverside Walk
- Saturday 28th April:** Prayer Breakfast
- Sunday 20th May:** Church AGM
- Wednesday 30th May:** Praying Together at 32 Riverside Walk
- Wednesday 20th June:** Praying Together at 32 Riverside Walk
- Saturday 7th July:** Prayer Breakfast
- Tuesday 10th July:** Church Council meeting
- Wednesday 25th July:** Praying Together at 32 Riverside Walk

### God's Plan for Aging - part 2

In His wisdom He made seniors lose co-ordination so they would drop things, requiring them to bend, reach and stretch, thus loosening their joints. And God looked down and saw that it was good.

In His wisdom He decided seniors would have additional calls of nature, requiring more trips to the bathroom, thus providing more exercise. God looked down and saw that it was good.