

staines

Methodist Church

NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2019

www.stainesmethodistchurch.org.uk

Minister: Rev. A. Reed **Tel:** Ashford (01784) 252559

Sunday Services: 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Sunday School: 10:30 a.m.



From the Minister

Dear Friends,

I begin by wishing you a peaceful and happy New Year. I also hope that you enjoyed Christmas. Advent is now behind us and we move on in the Liturgical Year. If you look in the back of the Methodist Worship Book you will find The Lectionary set out in three columns. Alongside these is another column with the date and a colour, and I thought it might be helpful to explore this with you.

The Liturgical year starts with the first Sunday in Advent which has the colour violet. When we get to Christmas Day the colour changes to white or gold which carries on through Epiphany which is celebrated on 6th January. The colour changes to green when we get to the second Sunday in Ordinary Time, which this year is on Sunday 20th January. It is not until Ash Wednesday, 6th March 2019, that the colour reverts to violet again. All through Lent the colour remains the same. When we get to Palm Sunday on 14th April 2019 the colour changes to red for the first part of Holy Week. On Maundy Thursday we change to white or gold. Good Friday has no colour, neither does Holy Saturday. It will be no surprise that Easter Sunday is white or gold and it stays the same colour until Pentecost, 9th June 2019, which is red. Trinity Sunday is white or gold. After this we go back to green and Ordinary Time for a large number of weeks; in fact right up until All Saints Day which is white or gold, then back to green again until we get to the Sunday before Advent which is white or gold.

In some Churches it is easy to work out where we are in the Calendar because the elements on the Communion table are covered in a cloth of the correct colour. As you go through this year, and if you visit other Churches, see if you can discover how they record the liturgical year. I wonder if you can come up with ideas why these colours have been chosen and how we might perhaps use them in our Church. Why not let me know what you think?

In January you will notice that I have five services at Staines and my intention is to do a series on the Beatitudes. I will be working with others in putting these services together and I hope that you will be encouraged

to be present for as many of them as you can.

Finally, as in previous years I would like to start the year by thanking everyone who works so hard to keep our Church functioning. So many people give of their time and talents and we owe them an immense debt of gratitude.

I pray that God will bless us as we serve Him in 2019.

God bless.

Andrew

News of the Church Family

Those of you who remember Peggy Drummond will be interested to know that Janette Knight has heard that Peggy is now 99 and living in Surrey.

...and Belated Greetings

Christine Lindsay sent her Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year, but unfortunately these were received after the December Newsletter was published.

Church Family Christmas Card

Thanks to all those who donated to this. A total of £480 will be divided between Action For Children and the Bible Society.

Shirley Price

November Church Collections

Here are the figures for November and from the beginning of the Methodist Financial Year that started on 1st September 2018

Last year to 31st August 2018 the total was		£15,987·80
Average Weekly Collection last year (52 weeks)		£307·46
Total this year from 1st September 2018 (13 weeks)		£4,773·60
Average Weekly Collection from 1st September 2018		£367·20
November 2018 Total Collections (4 weeks)		£1,635·22
Average November 2018 weekly collection		£408·81

John Bennett

Have you Spare time? — Volunteers wanted

The “Friends of Bronzefield” are looking for more volunteers to serve refreshments to visitors. If you are interested, or want more information, please contact Carole Miller on 01784 469178 or email her at Carol.Miller@sodexojusticeservices.com, or see Pauline Nicholson.

Prayer Diary for the month of January 2019

“Come Holy Spirit”

Please pray/give thanks for:

- 1st the volunteers who manned shelters over Christmas time.
- 2nd those affected by the tsunami in Sumatra, and Java and erupting volcanoes around the world.
- 3rd Mrs. Mary Windo and Rev. Andrew Reed as they prepare to lead worship on Sunday.
- 4th Manna food bank as it reopens; the staff and those who use it.
- 5th Our minister, Andrew Reed, and Pat, his wife.
- Sun Epiphany.
- 7th for new parents.
- 8th Worship Leaders and Local Preachers as they meet tonight.
- 9th Rev. Andrew Reed as he prepares to lead worship on Sunday.
- 10th The Thursday lunch team as they restart after their Christmas break.
- 11th “Minnows”: our Carer and Toddler group, which restarts today.
- 12th Messy Church as it meets today.
- Sun those living and working in refugee camps.
- 14th East to West; the staff and young people.
- 15th Thank God for loved ones.
- 16th Mr. Graham Wells and Mr. Paul Murphy as they prepare to lead our worship on Sunday.
- 17th those who have been bereaved; especially over the festive season.
- 18th-25th the Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity; for harmony between all denominations.
- 19th our government.
- Sun all Ministers in our Circuit.
- 21st Age UK, and those needing help during winter.
- 22nd our local councils and officials.
- 23rd Rev. Andrew Reed as he prepares to lead our worship on Sunday.
- 24th victims of abuse, and their abusers.
- 25th Thank God for good neighbours,
- 26th the talks between the United Kingdom and the European Union.
- Sun Holocaust Memorial Day and our Church Anniversary.
- 28th our local schools.
- 29th those who suffer from HIV/AIDS.

30th ourselves and our families.

31st Rev. John Hellyer and Mr. Paul Murphy as they prepare to lead our worship on Sunday.



The Church Prayer Chain

The Prayer Chain exists for the benefit of anyone in need of prayer.

Michael & Barbara Bagg

Jim Brodie

Barbara Lownsborough

If you have a prayer request, please contact any one of the above.

Be Still.

*For reading and meditation – Psalm 46 verses 1-11
“Be still and know that I am God.” (v 10)*

In this new year we need to explore the truth that in order to go deeper with God we need to spend quality time with Him. How amazing to be invited to sit quietly in His presence, talk with Him, and let Him talk with us! Those who say they can develop their relationship with God, without intentional times of prayer and the reading of His Word are misleading themselves. Jesus is our best example. He knew God’s presence better than anyone, yet He made time to be alone with His Father and talk to Him in private prayer.

To say that we can develop a rich relationship with God by recognising his presence but not taking time to have a spiritual focus, is like expecting to stay physically healthy without having regular meals. I have often asked Christians I met if they had a daily or regular quiet time; and sometimes the answers I receive surprise me. One man told me, “Yes, I get up early, sit quietly in my garden, and watch the birds feeding or the goldfish swimming in the pond...and I feel rejuvenated in my spirit and ready to start the day”. Is this really a time spent with God?

The whole purpose of the quiet time is to take in the spiritual resources of God. Nature is wonderful and restorative, but for the intake of spiritual resources we need the blessing that comes, not from nature, but from the Word of God and prayer. God offers us infinite resources for the asking – and taking. The quiet time is where the soul grows receptive and where prayer becomes powerful. As a result, we gain the quiet heart that in turn becomes quiet confidence; and that becomes quiet power.

The quiet time is where the soul grows receptive, where prayer becomes a place of healing – an oasis of peace- where the touch of His presence becomes as real and as dramatic as the touch of the woman on the hem of Jesus’ garment, where peace flows into our turbulence, where love resolves our resentments, where joy heals our griefs, and where we enter into the process of being known. The quiet time shuts us in with God, the door closes upon us, and then infinite resources flood into our soul. The door opens and we move out, with an increased awareness of God, ready to face a world that knows so little about Him.

God’s Blessings,

Chaplain John Wasley.

Services for the month of January 2019

	6 th	10:30 a.m.	Mrs. M. Windo	
		6:30 p.m.	Rev. A. Reed	
	13 th	10:30 a.m.	Rev. A. Reed	[Communion]
		6:30 p.m.	Rev. A. Reed	
	20 th	10:30 p.m.	Mr. G. Wells	
		6:30 p.m.	Mr. P. Murphy	
Church	} 27 th	10:30 a.m.	Rev. A. Reed	
Anniversary }		6:30 p.m.	Rev. A. Reed	[Communion]

“Preparation in Worship” is now *every* week from 10:20 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
— a chance to take a few minutes to prepare ourselves for worship

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday	8 th	8:00 p.m.	Worship Leaders and Local Preachers’ Meeting.
Thursday	10 th	noon	Thursday Lunches resume after their Christmas Break (tea/coffee served from 11 a.m.)
Friday	11 th		“Minnows” resumes.
Saturday	12 th		Messy Church.
Fri/Fri	18 th -25 th		Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Items for inclusion in the February Newsletter to David Price
(Staines 462204 or dave@shirleyanddave.me.uk)
by Sunday 20th January at the latest please



ESPRESSO CHURCH PRESENTS...

PHILIPPA HANNA

Award Winning Singer-Songwriter & Author

365 LIVE TOUR

SUNDAY 27TH JANUARY 2019



STAINES CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

DOORS: 17:45

FREE ENTRY

FACEBOOK.COM/SCCESPRESSOCHURCH

INSTAGRAM.COM/STAINES.CONG.CHURCH.YOUTH



Philippa performs songs and shares from her new devotional book 'Amazing You' plus after show meet & greet.

SIGNED AMAZING YOU
WILL BE AVAILABLE
AT EACH SHOW



PHILIPPAHANNA.COM



including children from parents
Compassion
in Jesus' name