

Christ Church Feltham



Seeking to know God and to make God known to others

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Ashford Common Methodist Church





FEBRUARY – MARCH 2024

Edition (39)

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Life of Michael Bagg Fun Family Worship at Woodthorpe Item from Fact

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THE NEXT EDITION (April - May 2024)

Deadline for items to reach us is Sunday 24th March for publication on Sunday 31st March 2024

Please put the deadline date in your diary!!

Any material received after the published deadline may not be included

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Many thanks to all those who contribute; new contributors always welcome, remember to include photos if possible.

PRINTING SERVICES

We can produce documents of many sizes, on white or coloured paper and with colour print if required so if we can help whether it be for a church event or family event please do get in touch and we will happily give you a quote.

printingservices@rjjagriff.me

Greetings from all at Christ Church Feltham

Did you know that it has been over 5 years since Christ Church Feltham was reopened for worship as an ecumenical partnership between the Methodist and Anglican churches? What started as an urgent matter of prayer among a faithful few, gave birth to a vision, which lead to the journey we've been on to see Christ Church Feltham remain a centre for worship and mission in Central Feltham.

When you hit a significant moment like this, if you are anything like me, you tend to look back with gratitude as you consider all the things God has done and look forward with faith and hope as you ponder all that God could do next!

When looking back, I find myself being so grateful for all that has gone before at Christ Church Feltham. During one of the Covid 19 lockdowns, we had the joy of giving groceries to the most vulnerable in our community and I was struck time and again by the amount of people who said 'oh I just love this church!' and who would then go on to tell stories of how they were part of one of the various youth groups or children's groups or got married or baptised at Christ Church. Christ Church has been a place of blessing and belonging for so many years – many, many faithful people have been used by God to bring the hope of Jesus to Feltham. I have heard some of the stories, and I want to hear more – please share them with me! Why? Because what we are doing now, in partnership, at Christ Church is building on all that God has done before – this isn't a new story God is writing at Christ Church, but the next chapter of what he has been doing here for over 100 years, and the next and subsequent chapters don't make any sense without all the previous chapters.

I've found myself looking back with gratitude to all those within the circuit, who gave a costly and sacrificial YES! to the next chapter of Christ Church – to the circuit stewards of the Feltham and Staines circuit, to the Rev'd Anne Dollery down at St Dunstans and especially to Rev'd Andrew Reed, our superintendent, who has put countless, countless hours into making the partnership happen – I am beyond

grateful. For, without your YES to this next chapter at CCF, we would not have seen all that God has written...

I am grateful to God, who has placed a new worshipping community at Christ Church and through that community, in partnership with this circuit; prayer has occurred, mission has taken place, worship has been conducted, the hungry have been feed, the homeless have been housed, the lonely have found friendship, the hopeless given hope and the love of God has shone around. Praise God!

And now I look forward with faith and hope — I find myself asking God, what are you going to do next, not just with Christ Church, but with The Church in Feltham and in our Circuit? My prayer for God's church has always been the same... 'would you set your church on fire' (not literally!). When I pray that prayer my mind goes to Acts 2 when God poured out the Holy Spirit upon his people and set his Church on Fire. From Acts 2, right the way through the rest Acts we see what happens when the Church is on Fire from being filled with the Holy Spirit — that is, the town, city, nations to which it is called, are blessed and brought to life — it becomes fully alive! They begin to experience 'life in all its fullness' as Jesus puts it in John 10.

So, as we embark on another year. Would you join me, in looking back with gratitude and looking forward with faith and give your YES! to God, by praying, would you fill your Church, here in the Feltham and Staines circuit (and beyond) with your holy spirit and use it to proclaim Christ and fresh and bring life to all Amen?.

Amen.

Blessings to you all, Rev'd Andy Watkins (Christ Church Feltham.)



Ashford Common Methodist Church

Saxon Road (Off Feltham Hill Road), Ashford. TW17 1LW Church Contact: Mrs. Kait Sanger 07941 540214 ashford-common@sfmc.org.uk



friends Christine Fisher and Maureen Jeffrey who have

birthdays in February. In March we say happy birthday to Jo Rutter & Michelle Camis.

News from Ashford Common

The generosity shown for the Gift Service on the first Sunday of Advent led to £90 being collected for Action for Children. Thank you.

It was great to welcome the wider community to our Carol Service on Christmas Eve, warm hospitality was enjoyed after the Service.

On New Year's Eve, Carol Praise was the theme for our Own Arrangement Service. The Congregation was invited to select their favourite hymns, songs and Carols from the Christmas section of the hymn book.

For a number of years the Annual Church Meeting at Ashford Common takes place during a Family & Parade Service – we repeated this on Sunday 21 January. The life and work of our Church was shared through slides and pictures while being expertly embroidered into the structure of a Service by Kait Sanger, with a message delivered by Rev Kofi.

Our next Family and Parade Service will be coincidental with Mothering Sunday on 10 March.

It's always a pleasure to see fresh flowers in Church each week. After the evening Service these are shared with love with folk associated with our fellowship. If you'd like to help with this important ministry, please look at the flower rota for 2024 on the hymn book table and add your name to a date that is important to you.



In the approach to Christmas our young people were presented with a number of appropriately themed activities including a party on the final evening for Anchors & Juniors.









Company Section boys are looking forward to the opportunity of joining members from across London for an afternoon of paintball on 16 March.

From the Circuit Office & Beyond

Dear Friends

Already 2024 is under way. Looking around there is much going on in our world which takes our attention and it is right that this should be the case. Over the course of 2024, if things follow the expected pattern there will



be a number of elections taking place all around the world. The media will focus on the most prominent of these events which no doubt will include the selection of the Prime Minister in the United Kingdom and the election of the next President of the Each change of Government, United States of America. wherever it takes place will have an impact on the course of history. Alongside these high profile events, life carries on. Nationally our Parliament continues to consider matters of vital importance; once again, making decisions that will change the way that we do things to a greater or lesser extent. Locally those who provide us with the utilities and our local Councils continue to make use of the resources that they have to meet the needs of our communities. As time goes by we see just how difficult this can be. Perhaps this is most apparent when we consider the number of Public Enquiries that are taking place which we follow as they come under the spotlight. I know that there are lots of opinions about the rights and wrongs of each situation but I also realise just how easy it is to form a view without having all the necessary information.

You will appreciate that here in the Staines and Feltham Circuit we have similar structures (although on a much smaller scale) which have responsibility to manage a wide range of issues. Some are complex and in the public view whilst others are personal and need a careful pastoral response. Here in the

Circuit we have our Church Councils, Ecumenical Church Councils, Partnerships and Deacons to oversee these matters in the local Churches. Alongside these we have members of the Circuit Leadership Team and the Circuit Meeting who have responsibility to oversee what happens. Much of what we deal with locally is also reviewed within the South East District of the Methodist Church and the Connexion, both of whom can instruct the Circuit to carry out particular functions as well.

In 2024 I would encourage you to pray not just for those in powerful positions of State all around the world, but also to bring our national Government and politicians as well as Local Councillors and Executives of companies, large and small. This is not to forget those people and organisations who have an impact on our lives day by day. It is somehow all too easy to criticise, but it is surely much better to follow the advice of St Paul who wrote this to Timothy (1 Tim 2: 1-4)

"First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life, in all godliness and dignity. This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.". (NRSV)

Your prayers for those with responsibility in and around the Circuit are also valued. I know that you will be aware of those matters within your local Church so do please pray for them on a regular basis. 2024 is the year when we start the process of looking for a new member of the Team. Following the Methodist procedure this means that we are due to appoint our Circuit Invitation Committee at the Circuit Meeting in February

2024. Once appointed they will begin to prayerfully determine the will of God for the Staines and Feltham Circuit. My request is that you add your prayers as well.

God bless.

Andrew



For nearly 3 decades FACT (Faith Awareness in Children Trust) has been engaged in primary schools, pre-school settings, community groups and churches with a clear aim of 'Aiding households with children encounter Jesus and grow in their faith together.' In that time, we have responded to the needs of households in an everchanging society with a gospel message that remains the same. It's only the method that has changed so we remain relevant.

We are a registered charity and have been blessed over the years with good and able Trustees. We are now in *urgent need* of new Trustees to join our board to offer oversight to the work and ministry. It is said that the role of a Trustee falls into 3 equal groupings, 33% stewardship, 33% strategic direction, 33% being generative and innovative – to fulfil the charity objects. We are entering a new and extremely exciting phase in the life of FACT and need more Trustees to support these developments.

Could you step up and step forward to be one of the new Trustees? Are you just curious enough to want to know a little more and would be willing to explore that possibility?

Do get in touch with **Simon Shutt**, Director of Children's Ministry on either simon@thefact.co.uk or **07733360009** to start a conversation. Thank you.



SERVE the communities of Ashford and Laleham by responding to the needs of society.

It is a church where EVERYONE is welcomed.

info.woodthorpe@sfmc.org.uk www.woodthorpemethodistchurch.co.uk

Clarendon Road, Ashford, Middlesex. TW15 2QR Edinburgh Drive, Laleham, Middlesex. TW18 1PH Church Contacts: Verna Doe 01784 420183 Graham Wells 01784 258785



Wednesday Morning
at Edinburgh Drive run by
Kingdom Living Church
9.30 am – 12 noon,
EVERY Wednesday



We had a very creative period as 2023 came to an end.

Maralyn Hawker got our brains working with a fun Christmas quiz.

We had a card making session where everyone showed their artistic skills and produced a wonderful variety of Christmas cards.

Just before Christmas we were lucky enough too enjoy the welcome return of Marion Cooper (Bobby). She came and played the piano for us, and led us in a wonderful sing-along-long, of Christmas songs. 2024 was opened by an interesting talk with slides, from Desmond about his trip to his Charity in Nigeria.

He told us how pleased he was to see how the group has expanded and now have a large purpose build hall for a variety of meetings. He was sad to see how inflation had increased the prices of everything and its effect on those with small or limited incomes.

Desmond was grateful for the donations he was able to take and share and will happily receive any further monies which can make such a difference to the people of the Isheri project.

All are welcome to join us on 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at the Edinburgh Rd church.

Wishing you all a peaceful and blessed 2024.



SUNDAY JANUARY 28TH
AT 4PM
AT WOODTHORPE METHODIST CHURCH
CLARENDON ROAD
ASHFORD



ALL WELCOME!

EDITION FOCUS

My name is Michael Bagg, I was born in a heatwave in June 1950, the youngest of four siblings, my home was in Staines (no "Upon-Thames" in that era!) for the first seven and three-quarter years of my life. At that point, the family moved to an address in Ashford, a few hundred yards from the border with Staines; the prime reason was to have access to two bus routes, rather than only one, together with two Greenline (express bus) routes, as we did not own or run a car.

The move of home brought a change in school — to Woodthorpe Road Junior School, a Victorian building with roaring fires in each classroom in the winter months. The site is now home to the Salvation Army Citadel, and whenever I go there for events the thought comes to me that, sixty-five years ago, I may have been sitting in that very spot, wearing short trousers, studying at an old-fashioned desk, complete with inkwell!

From the age of three my lovely, late sister (Evelyn) took me to afternoon Sunday School at Staines Methodist Church, then situated in Kingston Road in a cavernous Victorian building. I went from the "Beginners" Department to the "Juniors", then the "Young People's", becoming a Church Member at sixteen, during Alan Cox's incumbency. I took on the role of JMA Secretary and various other commitments in church life.

My Secondary education was at Matthew Arnold School, boys half; the other half was for the girls, and very rare was it that there was any mixing (at least during school hours). Leaving school at sixteen, I commenced work with British Rail, then being employed by that organisation for twenty-six and a half years. I moved around quite often in the early years, before settling at Waterloo. One of my early roles was in the Computer Bureau at Reading; computers had their own large room, and they stood about five feet tall, with massive-sized tapes on reels whirring round inside glass doors. Smoking was allowed anywhere in the building, except the computer room — computers were too precious to be damaged by cigarette ash and smoke!!

Thankfully, legislation banning smoking from most workplaces is how it is now, duly considering the health of the **human**.

Leaving railway employment in the run-up to privatisation, I then worked for the London Borough of Hounslow until retirement, this time staying in the same building throughout my second career. In between these two employers I, a confirmed bachelor, met the love of my life, Barbara; we celebrate 30 years of marriage this Spring.

Many of you reading this will remember my role as a Local Preacher in this Circuit. I was always a shy, retiring kind of person (and still am!), but a saintly, long-standing "Local" (David Mitchell) one day put his hand on my shoulder and told me "God is calling you to preach". What a shock; someone who leads worship, and preaches the living word of God to many people – that was **not** what a quiet person, who was happy working "behind the scenes", did. But that was human reasoning, not the way **God** can and does work. So at twenty-five years of age I took the first, tentative steps of exploring this call. Confirmation came gradually, culminating in my "full accreditation" in November 1981. This ministry continued until the Summer of 2017, though until February 2020 I was often to be found leading the 15minute service following the "Thursday Lunch" at Staines. Since then I have stepped back, apart from very occasionally substituting on a Sunday when an appointed preacher, in advance, advised me that they could not fulfil their appointment. My "work" in God's Kingdom is now, in the main, "behind the scenes".



Seeking to know God and to make God known to others

Tachbrook Road (off Bedfont Lane), Feltham, Middlesex TW14 9NX Church Contact: Mrs Maggie Netto 07956 553974

CELES SEV.

contactus@southvillemethodistchurch.org.uk www.southvillemethodistchurch.org.uk Happy Birthday Robina Howliston, Rob Barton and Jonathan Griffiths

SOUTHVILLE NEWS: Christmas Events at Southville

As usual the run up to Christmas was a very busy and exciting time at Southville.

All the members of T.A.L.C. together with some husbands started their Christmas celebrations with a lunch at the Harvester.

On Tuesday 12th December 90 children and staff from Year 1 at Southville Primary came to the Church in the pouring rain to hear the Christmas message and to share the Christmas songs from their Carol Concert. Despite the rather large puddle that kept forming outside our gates no children drowned!

On Friday 15th we hosted another school group but this time Year 1 from Cardinal Road School. Orange Class walked to the Church (approx. 1 mile) and all arrived safely albeit extremely excited and damp. During the visit they learnt about the signs symbols and celebrations of the Christian Church. We then shared the Christmas message followed by the children singing songs from their Christmas concert.

This was repeated on Monday 18th when it was pink class's turn to visit. Unfortunately by Tuesday 19th the weather had deteriorated and we offered to visit the school instead of them walking to us. Maggie, Marilyn and the



knitted nativity were able to meet with the children in the hall so that they did not miss out on the experience of the other groups.

All children who visited Southville were given a copy of the CPO Christmas Story magazine.

Our family friendly Christmas Eve service was led by the Rev. Julie Underwood and the families from Brick

Church, together with our congregation enjoyed unpacking the meaning of Christmas. It was wonderful to see the Church filled once more with a wide age range of people. The excitement was contagious.

Following the service we all enjoyed a variety of Christmas refreshments.



We held our first Brick Church of 2024 on 6th January and are now planning our Easter program.

Dear Friends,

Greetings and blessings of better times in the month of February and this new year 2024.





Revelation 1:16

In his (Jesus) right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. **His face** was like the sun shining in all its brilliance. <u>In Context</u> | <u>Full Chapter</u> | <u>Other</u> Translations

John revelator saw Jesus' face. It shone like the sun at its brightest moment. John had witnessed a similar sight of this divine glory when Jesus was transfigured at the top of a high mountain (Matthew 17:1–2) His face [reflecting His majesty and the Shekinah glory] was like the sun shining in [all] its power [at midday]. The glory of God's majestic presence and power was shining for what? Well is for better times. Whenever the glory shows up miracles break out. Jesus turned water into wine and the Bible says "his glory was revealed" (John 2). May God release his glorious light upon us in Jesus name.

Better times in 2024

Psalm 4:6

Many, Lord, are asking, "Who will bring us prosperity?"

Let the light of your **face shine** on us

In the world today, many are asking this same question. "Who will bring us prosperity and show us better times?", , "Who will make us successful?" Who will show us good? The psalmist turns to God and says, Lord, the light of your face is the answer to a prosperous, successful and better future in 2024 and beyond.

The light emanating from the face of the resurrected Christ is the light of the spirit of the Lord,



the light of the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the light of the spirit of counsel and might or power, the light of the knowledge and quick understanding.(Isaiah 11:1-2) We switch on the lights of the seven spirits of God through prayer into our lives, family, churches and communities. The question for us as individuals is what practical steps do we need to take to realise better times for our selves and church Family?

Prayer

Smile upon us, Lord! and Shine the light of your face on us, O Lord for better times. *May* the light of your favour shine upon us. Let the light of your presence shine on us, O Lord, Father, let the shekinah glory in the face of Jesus Christ shine like the sun in all its brilliance on me, my family, your global church and the nations for salvation, deliverance, restoration, revival and massive growth.

Father, give me access to the Light of Your Word; open my eyes to see wondrous things out of Your Holy Book, the bible; I receive the grace for prayer and supplication; help me to exist to serve your Kingdom



CHURCH CONTACTS AND ACTIVITIES ASHFORD COMMON METHODIST CHURCH

Feltham Hill Road, Ashford Common, TW15 1LW

Mrs. Kait Sanger - 07941 540214 ashfordcommon@sfmc.org.uk

MONDAY	Term Time	Boys' Brigade Anchor Section / Junior Section	17:30 / 18:30
THURSDAY	Term Time	Boys' Brigade Company Section	19:00
SUNDAY	Weekly	Morning Worship & Sunday School	10:30
		Evening Worship	18:30

CHRIST CHURCH FELTHAM

Christ Church, Hanworth Road, Feltham. TW13 5AE

Rev Andy Watkins hello@christchurchfeltham.org www.christchurchfeltham.org

TUESDAY	1 st Tuesday	Feltham History Group	19:45
WEDNESDAY	Weekly Term Time	Stay and Play	10:00
	Weekly	The Furnace - worship together and pray for Feltham	19:45
SUNDAY	Weekly	Informal Service with Kids Groups	Door Open 10:00
	3 rd Sunday	Community Lunch	After Church
		everyone is welcome, bring some food to share!	Arter Charen

SOUTHVILLE METHODIST CHURCH

Tachbrook Road, Feltham, Middlesex. TW14 9NX

Mrs. Maggie Netto – 07956 553974 contact-us@southvillemethodistchurch.org.uk

www.southvillemethodistchurch.org.uk

TUESDAY	2 nd	TALC (Tuesday Adult Leisure Club)	14:00 – 16:00
SATURDAY	1 st	Brick Church	10:00 - 11:30
		Revival & Prophetic Prayer Service	09:00
SUNDAY	Weekly	Prayer and Praise	10:00
		Morning Worship	10:30

ST DUNSTAN'S FELTHAM St Dunstans Road, Feltham, Middlesex. TW13 4JY Rev Anne Dollery - admin@stdunstansfeltham.org.uk www.stdunstansfeltham.org.uk

MONDAY	Weekly	Drop-in	10:00-12:00	
	Fortnightly	Bible study on Zoom	20:00	Soo Wookhy
WEDNESDAY	Weekly	Holy Communion	10:00	See Weekly Notices for
THURSDAY	Monthly	WOT (Women on Thursdays)	14:00-16:00	Details
SUNDAY	Weekly	Parish Communion in church	09:45	Details
	Monthly	Morning prayer on Zoom	09:30	

WOODTHORPE METHODIST CHURCH

Clarendon Road, Ashford. TW15 2QR and Edinburgh Drive, Laleham. TW18 1PH Mr Graham Wells - 01784 258785 woodthorpe@sfmc.org.uk

MONDAY	Clarendon Rd	Weekly Term Time	Rainbows (Aged 5 – 7)	16:30 – 17:30
			Brownies (Aged 7 – 10)	17:50 - 19:30
			Guides (Aged 10 – 15)	19:00 - 21:00
TUESDAY	Zoom	Alternate weeks	Bible Study	20:00
WEDNESDAY	Clarendon Rd	2 nd Wednesday (Not at Church)	Clarendon Ladies Group	12:00
	Edinburgh Dr.	Weekly	Coffee Morning (KLC)	09:30 -12:00
	Edinburgh Dr.	Last Wednesday of month	Messy Church	15:30 – 17:30
THURSDAY	Zoom	Weekly	Bible Study	10:00
	Edinburgh Dr.	Weekly	Fellowship	14:30
	Clarendon Rd	Last Thursday of month	Messy Church	15:30 – 17:30
SUNDAY	Clarendon Rd	All except last Sunday	Morning Worship	10:30
	Clarendon Rd	As advertised	Fun Family Worship	16:00
	Edinburgh Dr.	Last Sunday	Morning Worship	10:00



For the families and friends of those that have passed away since the last publication:

Eileen Powell

If there are people in communities that you would add to this list please give these to your church contact to pass on for the next edition!

All those involved in holiday activities & outreach work:

Planning Lent and Easter activities.

Youth Organisations (Scouting, Guiding, Boy Brigade)

Church Groups (Messy Church, Brick Church, Prayer Groups)

All those that work in the following areas during what can be a busy time in:

in and study in our educational establishments with the young and old in our communities.

our Emergency Services

Hospitals, Community Health & Social Care and mental health services All the Hospital Chaplians at Ashford and St Peters and West Middlesex

The Extended Circuit Leadership Team

The 7 Ministers
The 5 Circuit Stewards

The South East Methodist District Team:

Rev David Hinchliffe – District Chair
Rev Sam Funnell – Western Area Assistant District Chair
Wendy Cory – District Administrator
Rev Nick Oborski – Synod Secretary
District Safeguarding Officer

All those in the ministry of God:

Ministers, Chaplains, Local Preachers and Worship Leaders and those in Training including those Preaching and leading worship in our churches

Rev Anne Dollery
Sheila Hassan
Nick Hughes
Paul Murphy
Rev Ruth Midcalf
Jonathan Perkins
Rev David Priddy
Rev Andrew Reed

Pauline Shilston
Rev Rudy Tan
Rev Kofi Tekyi-Ansah
Rev Julie Underwood
Chaplain John Wasley
Rev Andy Watkins
Graham Wells

All those leading Own Arrangement Servies



If you know of anyone or of any circumstance requiring our prayers, phone Bobby (from Woodthorpe) 01784 251944 or Email: prayer@easternendnews.org.uk

If you would like to be added to the prayer chain please phone or email



prayer@easternendnews.org.uk

IF YOU WOULD BE INTERESTED IN PREPARING THIS PAGE PLEASE CONTACT THE EDITORS