

THE  
OUTLOOK

SEPTEMBER TO  
NOVEMBER 2014



Emmanuel Church Sidcup

Methodist and United Reformed

## A Message from your Minister

Dear Friends,

I hope you did enjoy the summer and the Commonwealth Games.

In late July I travelled to Sheffield with Rudado to see my grandchildren and the youngest, baby Samuel, is growing and trying to crawl. Despite his cute antics he is not welcoming of strangers. Rudo (which means Love in Shona) was turning fourteen and had twelve of her friends attend her birthday party. She was going to invite more, if not the whole school for I understand she is very popular. However, there were interesting activities, which required limited numbers; she had tie-dye of T-shirts and a barbecue going. I was very happy to see her in action with her friends, full of joy and happiness.

Earlier in the month of June my daughter Rudado and I travelled to beautiful Cape Town for a very special occasion in the family. We attended the graduation ceremony of my fourth son Mutemwa. He was receiving his Master's degree from the Graduate School of Business at the University of Cape Town. It was truly a memorable occasion. I felt his achievement was my achievement too. I was very happy and probably took more photos than I should have, but there is nothing better than capturing an important moment in time.

The guest speaker was Advocate Thulisile Madonsela, the Public Protector of South Africa who is now world renowned for challenging the status quo on corruption in SA. Her position is most challenging, she serves the people of South Africa in the truest sense, by being the ultimate voice of transparency – call it ‘a wall of checks and balances’...so that politics does not escape itself. She gave an inspiring speech that challenged the graduands to explore their talents, to create employment, to speak to justice, to help others, and ultimately be members of a just and proud global society.

We had arrived the day before the graduation; we took the opportunity to visit Table Mountain, which is believed to be one of the oldest mountains in the world, and one of the seven wonders. Table Mountain is special in that it sits on the southwest corner of the vast African continent. It serves greater significance as it also looks over Robben Island, a place you would all be familiar with as it served as Nelson Mandela's home for 27 years. A cable car ferries you to the top, and the mountain gives spectacular views of the Cape. The world is beautiful standing there looking at the Indian Ocean gliding over the blue skies into Africa's southern horizon. It was just awesome, the small wildlife, the flora, and even as the seasons were changing we still saw blossomings of South Africa's national flower...the Protea. It is a unique place; no wonder why Mandela called it, the mountain of hope.

After the graduation we went to Harare to continue the graduation celebrations with family and friends.

In the life of our Church, on the 20<sup>th</sup> of July 2014 we had a special Service in remembrance of all those involved in WW1. The congregation contributed by collecting information, bringing photos, medals, letters of those who participated in the war. These items were displayed in the Church. It seems most families were affected in some way by this war. The Service used a liturgy which was tailored in a manner that

everyone participated. It was well attended and a befitting act of worship in memory of the fallen heroes.

Who said the Church is dying? On the 4th of August, 2014 at 9:15am we had a new member Samuel William son of Clare and Ben Latch born adding to our Community. We say congratulations to the Latch family and thank God for Samuel and continue to pray that he will grow up well nurtured to enjoy life in all its fullness and good health.

I wish you all a good time in what is left of our summer as you visit new places and fellowship with family and friends.

Blessings

*Juliet*

## **Remember Them**

As we commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of WW1 (1914-1918) which started 4th August, 2014 and moving through to 2018 we come to a time to stop and remember, to reflect and think of those who fought in the WW1. We remember them, whom God gathered from the storm of war into the peace of His presence and we pray that same peace may calm our fears and bring justice to all peoples establishing harmony among nations.

Thousands of people volunteered and gave their lives for the cause of freedom and the liberty we experience today. They gave their countries the best service of their love and made the ultimate sacrifice for peace. These people fought on the ground, in the trenches, at sea and in the air. The war was centred in Europe, but it was a global war involving nations from around the world. Britain was part of the Allied Powers, which included (amongst others) France, Russia, Japan, Belgium, Serbia and later, Greece, Italy, Romania and the United States. The whole of the British Empire was involved in the WW1. These individuals came united and committed to fight and defeat the tyranny of war.

The stories about this war are vivid and terrible with events where some became prisoners of war and facing difficult conditions and others lost their lives. Men had to pay the terrible price of war through death, never to see, their countries again. There were also personal tragedies, families their hearts bowed with sorrow, their every thoughts subdued, grieved for a loving husband, a caring father and a precious son. They thought of uncles, nephews and friends so many knew. It is true time is a great healer however even though the years have passed; these are the events and people we can never forget. We remember them with thanksgiving and sorrow, both lives taken and lives scared in WW1 as well as those lives from conflicts past.

Psalm 46 encourages us *God is our refuge and strength, an ever –present help in trouble. He makes wars cease.*

It is not easy to make sense of war for it is interwoven with people's lives. War is a high calling of individual sacrifice for the good of the nation. Therefore, wherever it pleases God to put man in this world, one needs to follow in the path of Jesus who served and passed through this world living and dying to rise again in Glory.

As we remember those who have suffered and those that continue to suffer the consequences of war we pray for peace and place our hope and faith in God and in His Son our Lord Jesus Christ.

*Juliet Ushewokunze*

## **My Nasio Adventures 2014**

In May I had my third trip to Kenya. I took 72 knitted teddies in my suitcase, with red jumpers and knitted hats all made by the ladies at the church.

I was involved in helping the children make cards for their sponsors, lots of inky hands and a bit of sewing too! On Sunday I played the keyboard at church for the visitors song. We made 5 orphan home visits by boda boda ( motorbike) in the afternoon. The head teacher selected several of the poorest families. An orphaned family of four boys were coping, with the eldest, aged 17 looking after them all. Their chairs had been stolen and they had to sit on the floor. They had one blanket between them, again sleeping on the floor. We managed to find some furniture and bedding for them at the local market.

Some of the children had to walk 5km to get to school. They do it because they know they will get a daily meal.

My memories are children eager to learn and play, smiling faces and children wanting a cuddle. Even though they have so little they are so happy. I hope I will be able to visit once again for the 2015 medical clinic. Does anyone want to join me?

*Freda.*

## **Bunty Cumming**

The following letter was received from Bunty's daughter.

It is with much sadness that I write to let you know that Bunty passed away peacefully on 5<sup>th</sup> June at Orpington Hospital. Although she had been in a nursing home at Sevenoaks for a number of years they were very good years and her resilience and strength of character were immense throughout. She was much loved by us all and we all miss her terribly. Although her connection with Emmanuel was long and strong over many years, particularly through her involvement as treasurer of the friendship Club, in her later years she was unable to be as involved at Sidcup as she would have wished

*Helen Cumming*



**Emmanuel Church is excited to  
bring to the Church again  
Messy Church!!**

**"This is a Free, Fun, Family event and will  
include:  
Fun, Food and Worship!!!"**

**Where ?            Emmanuel Church Hall,  
                         Hadlow Road, Sidcup**

**When ?            Saturday 4pm - 6pm**  
**13<sup>th</sup> September (Holiday Celebrations)**  
**11<sup>th</sup> October (The 4 Seasons)**  
**8<sup>th</sup> November (Food and where it comes from)**

**Who ?            All ages welcome**

**We look forward to seeing you all there**

**"Contacts: 01689 821956/julietushe@hotmail.com/donnakebabie@aol.com"**

### **Messy Church on 14<sup>th</sup> June**

As this completed our first year of Messy Church we decided to have a Sports Day and what a lot of fun we had. We were competing with many other events but still had 16 children with their parents and or Grandparents.

The children were either in the Yellow team or the Green team and we started off with an Obstacle Race in which they had to crawl through a tube, walk the plank, climb under a table, put a hoop over their heads and then throw some balls into a bowl of water before running back for the next member of their team to have a go. Seeing as the age range was from 1 to 8, it was total chaos but tremendous fun which everyone enjoyed.

Next came the Egg & Spoon race and we turned a blind eye to all the cheating that went on, after all, a 2 or 3 year olds logic is to hold the egg to stop it falling off the spoon.

This was followed by Air Racing in which the children had to drive a small ball along by creating a draft with a piece of card. It was amazing how quickly they picked up the skill to do this.

We then set up some individual events like Skittles and Power Throwing and we also had a few craft tables where they could make medals for themselves, play with the playdoh, do some colouring or just read a book.

When they all went into Church to sing a hymn and say a prayer, they were read a story of “The Boastful Giant” which they loved.

On coming back into the hall they were presented with the usual magnificent banquet, so they had a picnic sitting on their play mats.

As a finale we had the Parachute Game where everyone holds the parachute, its lifted and lowered with the children hiding underneath and then hundreds of balls are put in the middle and tossed skywards – the squeals and shrieks of delight were deafening.

At 6:00 the very tired youngsters went home after being presented with a Certificate to say they had attended our Messy Church Sports Day.

Once again we would like to thank all you wonderful people who help out and make Messy Church such a success. **Thank You.**

## Maintenance

A BIG thank you to Michael Parfitt who has replaced all the kitchen cupboards and has painted the kitchen for us. Your time and effort is very much appreciated.

Will all users please ensure that no hot pans are placed on the new worktops, please use the trivets provided.

*Tony Howard*



## WW1 Remembrance Service

The service, on 20<sup>th</sup> July, which coincided with a Parade Service was very well attended. There was a quiz about WW1 and some of the boys and girls played a game which simulated that played by soldiers of trying to throw stones into a helmet. They also took part in a tug-of-war, part of the soldier's keep-fit routine.

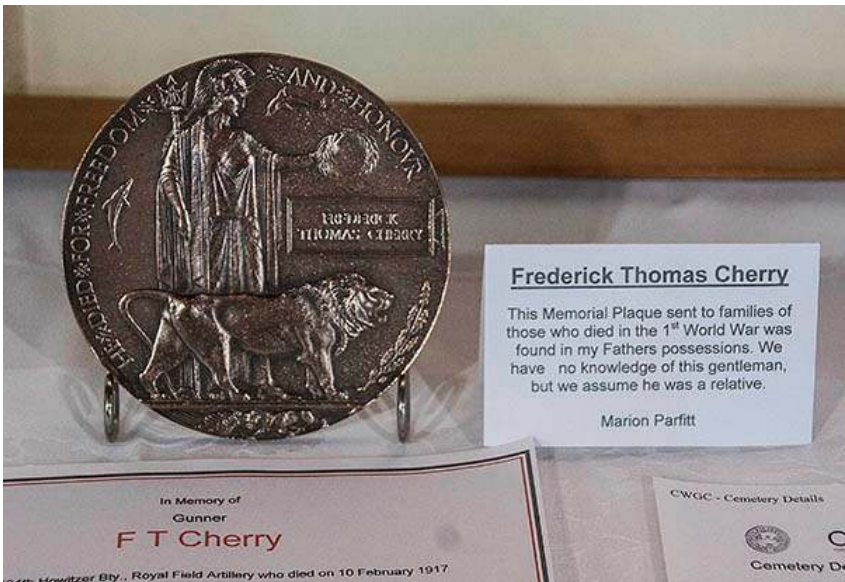
There was a good display of WW1 memorabilia, some of which are shown below. We thank everyone who contributed to this display.

Special thanks must go to Roger Latch and Peter Thornton for organising the event and to Phillip Willson for his invaluable research.



A Photograph, cap badge and medals (known as Pip, Squeak and Wilfred) of Henry Lloyd Williams, uncle of Gwyndaf Evans, who served in Gallipoli and France.





The Memorial Plaque (sent to families of those who died) for Gunner Frederick Thomas Cherry of the Royal Field Artillery, a relative of Marion Parfitt



## **Memorial at Bardon Mill**

Their names are carved in tribute  
to thirty of our sons  
on memorials in Belgium and in France  
like Tyne Cot, Thiepval, Menin Gate,  
and places far across the globe,  
But gathered on our own cross  
upon the village green  
They meet again in brotherhood  
as if they'd all come home.

No clock to mark the hour,  
the vicar checks his watch  
and starts the prayers.  
With solemn clear delivery  
two veterans from the Paras  
with their medals and red berets  
read out the names  
before the wreaths are laid.

War and death show no distinction,  
miners son or heir to Ridley Hall,  
but save your full compassion  
for the tragedy and anguish,  
the suffering of the family  
who lost three sons  
in Flanders bloody fields

*Keith Brunton, former member at Emmanuel*

## **Sunday Coffee**

Coffee will continue to be served in the church  
after morning service every Sunday.

All are welcome.



## Coffee Morning

Every Friday in the Church Hall from 10.30am to Noon. Come in for a coffee & biscuit and have a chat with friends. On fine days there may also be a bric-a-brac stall outside. All for church funds.



## Lunch

After many years in the kitchen, Freda has retired from organising the Lunch Club. Marion Parfitt has now taken over. Please note the price change.

You are invited to Lunch at 1pm on **Wednesdays** 17<sup>th</sup> Sep, 15<sup>th</sup> Oct and 19<sup>th</sup> Nov in the Green Room. Come and enjoy a meal followed by tea or coffee in a friendly atmosphere.

The price is £5 min! Its a bargain!



## Women's Fellowship Hour

- |           |                  |  |
|-----------|------------------|--|
| September | 1 <sup>st</sup>  | Back from our holidays with stories.   |
|           | 8 <sup>th</sup>  | Quiz & Games   |
|           | 15 <sup>th</sup> | Making things for our Harvest Festival on the 21 <sup>st</sup> .                           |
|           | 22 <sup>nd</sup> | Talk by John Beckham on Birds in Rye Harbour, and buying produce from the Harvest Service. |
|           | 29 <sup>th</sup> | Short update on Nasio by Freda – followed by games.  |
| October   | 6 <sup>th</sup>  | Waltzing Waters DVD with Michael.  |
|           | 13 <sup>th</sup> | City Walks – Insight into London with Muhsin.  |
|           | 20 <sup>th</sup> | Insight into being a National Trust Steward by Paul Laundry.                               |
|           | 27 <sup>th</sup> | Local history talk by Margaret.  |
| November  | 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | Erith Veteran Singers.   |
|           | 10 <sup>th</sup> | Life as a Blind Person by Mary Nunn.   |
|           | 17 <sup>th</sup> | Flower arranging with Freda and Marion.  |
|           | 24 <sup>th</sup> | Texts and Objects and gifts for Christmas Market on 29 <sup>th</sup>                       |

*Marion.*



**Celebrate Harvest Time**

**Come to the**

**BRING AND SHARE  
HARVEST LUNCH**

To be held in the Green Room

**On Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2014**

After the Harvest Festival Service

Soup and French bread will be provided.

Please bring a Sweet or Savoury dish to share.

There will be a bring-and-share list at the back of the church from Aug 31.

Please write down what your contribution will be to ensure a varied selection.

**Donations to  
The Manna Society**



# The Manna Society

This was started in 1982 and became a registered charity in 1986.

The Manna Day Centre at 6 Melior St, London is open seven days a week and provides

- Housing and Welfare Advice
- Breakfast and Lunch
- Medical Care
- Showers
- Clothing
- Furniture

For 120 to 150 Homeless and Poor people every day

Their current list of Most Needed Items includes

## **Food**

- Sugar
- Rice
- Tins of Fish
- Tins of tomatoes
- Tins of vegetables
- Milk powder

## **Men and Women's Clothing**

- Trainers
- Jeans
- Underwear
- Boxer shorts
- Socks
- Shoes

## **Other**

- Mugs
- Cereal bowls
- Dinner plates
- Towels (hand and bath)
- Blankets
- Sleeping bags

## **Pastoral News**

Congratulations to Christine and Roger Latch on the birth of their grandson, Samuel William Latch who was born on the 4<sup>th</sup> of August, a son for Ben and Clare and a brother for Sophie.

We were all saddened by the death of Freda Elam who died on 23 July at the age of 93. Her funeral was on 12<sup>th</sup> August.

Sheila Hall died on the 7<sup>th</sup> August. Her memorial service was on 21<sup>st</sup> August.

Bunty Cumming died on 5<sup>th</sup> June.

Continue to pray for David Calvert and his family.

Please keep in your prayers those too frail to attend Sunday services, those in hospital, those in nursing homes, those awaiting medical diagnosis and those who are grieving, especially the families of Freda Elam, Shelia Hall and Bunty Cumming.

## Revised Common Lectionary

<b>Calendar Date</b>	<b>Liturgical Date</b>	<b>First Reading</b>
<b>Sep 7,</b>	<b>13th Sun after Pentecost</b>	Exodus 12:1–14
<b>Sep 14,</b>	<b>14th Sun after Pentecost</b>	Exodus 14:19–31
<b>Sep 21,</b>	<b>15th Sun after Pentecost</b>	Exodus 16:2–15
<b>Sep 28,</b>	<b>16th Sun after Pentecost</b>	Exodus 17:1–7
<b>Oct 5,</b>	<b>17th Sun after Pentecost</b>	Exodus 20:1–4, 7–9, 12–20
<b>Oct 12,</b>	<b>18th Sun after Pentecost</b>	Exodus 32:1–14
<b>Oct 19,</b>	<b>19th Sun after Pentecost</b>	Exodus 33:12–23
<b>Oct 26,</b>	<b>20th Sun after Pentecost</b>	Deuteronomy 34:1–12
<b>Nov 1,</b>	<b>All Saints Day</b>	Revelation 7:9–17
<b>Nov 2,</b>	<b>All Saints Sunday</b>	Revelation 7:9–17
	or <b>21st Sun after Pentecost</b>	Joshua 3:7–17
<b>Nov 9,</b>	<b>22nd Sun after Pentecost</b>	Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25
<b>Nov 16,</b>	<b>23rd Sun after Pentecost</b>	Judges 4:1–7
<b>Nov 23,</b>	<b>Christ the King</b>	Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24
<b>Nov 27,</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Day</b>	Deuteronomy 8:7–18
<b>Nov 30,</b>	<b>1st Sun of Advent,</b>	Isaiah 64:1–9

**DECORATE THE CHURCH FOR  
CHRISTMAS  
Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November  
10.00am**

### Film Canisters 5p Collection

Every little helps to support our church. No one seems to miss those little 5p coins. Please continue to collect 5p coins in your film canisters. Spare canisters are available at the back of the church. Jennifer Wilson will be happy to receive your full ones.



## Revised Common Lectionary

<b>Calendar Date</b>	<b>Psalm Reading</b>	<b>Second Reading</b>	<b>Gospel Reading</b>
<b>Sep 7,</b>	Psalm 149 or Psalm 148	Romans 13:8–14	Matthew 18:15–20
<b>Sep 14,</b>	Exodus 15:1b-11, 20–21	Romans 14:1–12	Matthew 18:21–35
<b>Sep 21,</b>	Psalm 105:1–6, 37–45 or	Philippians 1:21–30	Matthew 20:1–16
<b>Sep 28,</b>	Psalm 78:1–4, 12–16	Philippians 2:1–13	Matthew 21:23–32
<b>Oct 5,</b>	Psalm 19	Philippians 3:4b-14	Matthew 21:33–46
<b>Oct 12,</b>	Psalm 106:1–6, 19–23	Philippians 4:1–9	Matthew 22:1–14
<b>Oct 19,</b>	Psalm 99	1 Thessalonians 1:1–10	Matthew 22:15–22
<b>Oct 26,</b>	Psalm 90:1–6, 13–17	1 Thessalonians 2:1–8	Matthew 22:34–46
<b>Nov 1,</b>	Psalm 34:1–10, 22	1 John 3:1–3	Matthew 5:1–121
<b>Nov 2,</b>	Psalm 34:1–10, 22	1 John 3:1–3	Matthew 5:1–12
<b>or</b>	Psalm 107:1–7, 33–37	1 Thessalonians 2:9–13	Matthew 23:1–12
<b>Nov 9,</b>	Psalm 78:1–7	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	Matthew 25:1-13
<b>Nov 16,</b>	Psalm 123 or Psalm 76	1 Thessalonians 5:1–11	Matthew 25:14–30
<b>Nov 23,</b>	Psalm 100	Ephesians 1:15–23	Matthew 25:31–46
<b>Nov 27,</b>	Psalm 65	2 Corinthians 9:6–15	Luke 17:11–19
<b>Nov 30,</b>	Psalm 80:1–7, 17–19	1 Corinthians 1:3–9	Mark 13:24–37

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From the United Methodist Church, The General Board of Discipleship

website <http://www.gbod.org/lead-your-church/revised-common-lectionary2013-2014>

### Please note

The closing date for copy for the **Dec / Jan./ Feb** Outlook will be

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> Nov**

Earlier contributions will be welcomed.

Please plan ahead and make sure that I am aware of any events or meetings that need to be included on the calendar. *Tony Howard*

[Emmanuel.church.outlook@gmail.com](mailto:Emmanuel.church.outlook@gmail.com)



## Services for September

- 7 10.30am Mrs Julie Gardner
- 14 10.30pm Rev Juliet Ushewokunze Communion,
- 21 10.30am Mr John Sennett Parade and Family service,  
Harvest Festival
- 28 10.30am Rev Juliet Ushewokunze

## Services for October

- 5 10.30am Mrs Gillian Dodds
- 12 10.30am Rev Juliet Ushewokunze Communion
- 19 10.30am Rev Juliet Ushewokunze Parade and Family service
- 26 10.30am Rev David Gillman

## Services for November

- 2 10.30am Mr Ralph Brandhorst
- 9 10.30am Rev Juliet Ushewokunze Communion
- 16 10.30am Rev Juliet Ushewokunze Parade and Family service
- 23 10.30am Mr David Gloin
- 30 10.30am Mrs Heather Williams Church AGM

**Please attend the  
Church AGM on 30<sup>th</sup> November  
After Morning Service**

**Monthly Churches Together in Sidcup  
Prayer Meeting every 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday**

9.00 - 9.30 am. All welcome

- 20 Sep Footscray Baptist church, Sidcup Hill
- 18 Oct To be confirmed
- 15 Nov To be confirmed

# Mustard Seed Relief Mission

## Love in a Box

This part of the operation is, after more than a decade one of the best known of our activities. We begin collecting the boxes at the end of October every year. Schools, churches, other organisations and individuals collect and pack items into shoeboxes for us to send to under privileged children throughout Eastern Europe. We have sent on average 50,000 boxes each year and each one is individually received by a child.

Each box is sent to us with a 'love in a box' leaflet. A donation of £3.00 per box is requested and this goes towards some of the transportation costs.

### How to fill boxes

The boxes need to be filled with items suitable for whichever age group you decide to choose. These are listed on the leaflet which needs to be attached to the box when complete.

### What to put in boxes

We categorise the boxes by gender and age.

Boys 3 - 5 years old. Toy cars / Ball / Jigsaw / Picture Book / Soft Sweets / Crayons / Pencils / Soft Toy / Soap / Flannel / Toothbrush / Toothpaste / Hairbrush / Comb/ Hat / Gloves.

Girls 3 - 5 years old. Toy dolly / Everything else as above.

Girls 6 - 11 years old. Toy Dolly / Skipping Rope / Jewellery / Ball / Playing Cards / Sweets / Book / Felt Tip Pens / Pencils / Paper / Soft Toy / Flannel / Toothbrush / Toothpaste / Soap / Hat / Scarf / Gloves.

Boys 6 - 11 years old. Toy car / Yoyo / Everything else as above.

Boys 12 -15 years old. Marbles / Travel games / Juggling Balls / Baseball Cap / Playing Cards / Geometry Set / Note Book / Pens / Pencils / Soft Toy / Sweets / Soap / Flannel/ /Toothpaste / toothbrush / Gloves / Scarves.

Girls 12 - 15 years old Hair accessories / Jewellery / Make up / Perfume Stick / Talc / Deodorant / Dolly / Skipping Rope / Everything else as above.

Leaflets will be available in church, and boxes will be collected from Emmanuel by Mustard Seed soon after the Family Service on 16<sup>th</sup> November.

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## Quiet

A mother who took her fidgety seven year old daughter to church finally had an idea: about half way through the long sermon she whispered " if you don't keep quiet, the minister is going to lose his place, and he will have start *all over again!*"

*From Don*



# OUR BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

## SEPTEMBER

Harold Frederic Wilson	1985
Ada Jessie Nathanielsz	1986
Beryl Braidwood	1986
Eileen Dorothy Lyon	1987
Ada Charlotte Hughes	1992
Winston Radcliffe Wood	1994
Ronald Edwin Parker	1997
Stephen Watkins	2002
Ida Wiles	2008

## OCTOBER

Ida Elizabeth Vaughan	1963
Eileen Frances Carter	1976
Marjorie Constance Liddle	1979
William John Cole	1981
Thomas Reginald Clifford Huett	1984
Gladys Ethel Bell	1985
Elsie Annie Reader	1986
Bessie Grimes	1991
Frederick James Newman	1998
Reginald Grubb	1999
Dallas Lewis	2012

## NOVEMBER

John Robert Brunskill	1977
Audrey Alice Brunskill	1985
Ivy Annetta Langham	1984
Winifred Louisa Hodby	1986
Edith May Gaffney	1987
Margaret Rand	1984
William Rand	1984
Alice Mary Wood	1969
Margaret Wood	1987
Edith Mary Norman	1992
Winifred Huett	1997
Cyril Skinner	2006
Sergie Dziejko	2009

# Tribute to Freda Elam

by Jim Chambers

Freda was born Freda Elizabeth Mills in Chislehurst on 30<sup>th</sup> November 1920. She was the youngest of four siblings born to Charles and Frances. Her eldest brother was Harold, next was Barbara, then Roy followed by the young Freda. Sadly they have all now passed on.

She had a tough time as a young child. Her mother died when she was only 4 years of age so she and her brothers were brought up by their father. Her older sister Barbara, who was around 10 years old at the time, played an important role in Freda's upbringing, forming a close bond with her that lasted her lifetime.

Freda was brought up and lived in Sidcup for much of her life. However, during the Second World War, she moved to Nottingham where she contributed to the war effort as a member of the ATC and secured the rank of Corporal in the Fifth Platoon, D Company, No. 7 Training Centre. Her 'military' upbringing probably contributed to her perfect stance and upright posture, as did her fondness of dancing, her hockey playing and athletics. It was in the CRE unit in Nottingham where she met Eric Holmes whom she married in 1945, Regrettably he passed soon after their marriage at the age of 23 following a serious illness. Naturally, she was devastated but rarely referred to him.

After the war, Freda returned to Sidcup again where she met Robert Turner Elam (affectionately referred to as 'Bob') whom she married on 27<sup>th</sup> June 1953. She adored Bob and they enjoyed a wonderful life together until he too passed away in 1997 with Parkinson's Disease. Although quite a private person, Freda would often speak highly of Bob as she missed him dearly.

She and Bob never had children of their own, but Freda was always included as part of her brother Roy's family Christmases and other parties in Ramsgate. The Mills' family actually grew up in and around Sidcup, but despite Roy and his family moving 70 or so miles east, Freda was never far from Roy's family thoughts. Indeed, when Roy died, Freda maintained close relations with his widow, Olive, and the 2 nieces and 5 nephews. The family have been most supportive of Freda who looked forward to her eldest niece, Brenda's regular visits. Brenda kept in close touch by phone to check on Freda's welfare and visited regularly to do Freda's hair and help clean and tidy the bungalow. Freda often referred to her as "the daughter she never had." Sadly, Brenda was scheduled to visit Freda the day after she died.

Freda appreciated the family's support and kindness and felt an integral part of her late brother's and his wife Olive's family circle. Freda also maintained contact with Bob's family, some of whom have also passed on. Many have relayed happy family memories about her in their contact with me, for which I am grateful.

Freda was very much the supporter and organiser behind her dear Bob, who I understand was a quiet and gentle business man. She assisted him with his businesses as a Waste Paper merchant, organised their home and cared for him when



he became ill and it was through his health problems that she became an avid supporter of the local Parkinson's Society. Freda also organised her and Bob's many wonderful holidays together, particularly around Europe, with Freda keeping a detailed record of every place and every town they visited en route. Possessions around the bungalow reveal mementoes of those happy times.

Freda worked for many years in the Staffing department of Unilever where she made many friends some of whom have been in contact and managed to get here today, for which the family are grateful. Others are unfortunately too frail to make the journey but have nevertheless conveyed their condolences and provided wonderful memories of Freda, her support and kindness and recollections of country walks and funny moments which they enjoyed with her at the annual Unilever parties.

Freda, as many of you will know, was fun-loving person, and always smiling. She was also a keen dancer the agility for which she retained. I certainly have my own memories of her waltzing around the Blind Club hall next door trying to entice helpers and Club members into a few delicate steps and even of her doing 'high kicks' when she was over 90, something I could never manage. I have also been reminded by the family of her wearing out a pair of heels of her shoes through dancing at her sister in law, Olive's, birthday when Freda was 78 year old. She clearly never lost that talent and interest.

She was an avid Church-goer although her attendance became less frequent in recent months. She was also a great supporter of community organisations especially the Parkinson's Society as mentioned earlier, of the local Literary and Scientific Society and the local Blind Club, through which I first got to know her.

She was a very caring, gentle lady and, despite her own hearing impairment, she regularly sat down to chat with Blind Club members, helped serve them tea and cake and generally made everyone feel welcome and at home. She also regularly secured me a doughnut at Club meetings! That was her nature.

She was loved and will be missed by her family, friends and neighbours. She was one in a million. I shall never forget seeing her regularly greeting people in the street with her traditional hug and a kiss on the cheek, and always enquire after their wellbeing. She supported friends by visiting them when they were unwell including relatives of close friends. They rightly reciprocated and supported her when she needed it.

She was welcomed at Rotary events which she attended frequently with her wonderful friend, "Mr Community", John, or 'JR' Bilke. I know I echo the family's sincere thanks to him for his years of friendship to Freda, and to Bob alike, especially during his illness. He is a true friend who will most especially miss dear Freda and their visits to the White Cross pub for Freda's scampi and chips. It was John's way of ensuring that she ate well and avoided the need for her bus trips to Tesco's or M&S in Eltham.

I have already mentioned Freda's meticulous record keeping. This was most evident when I started dealing with her affairs. She threw little of importance away and noted every key conversation and everything in her home and her life had a place. She applied the same methodical approach to her personal paperwork which has made my life easier as one of her Executors. I regularly visited her home to find a desk top covered in papers for my action, each clipped with her favourite brightly coloured paper clips, or kept in place with one of her many rulers. However, I was virtually strip-searched if I ever failed to return the said items before reaching the front door on completion of my business. The same went for her pens, although occasionally she managed to retain one of mine without me noticing it!

Her tidy mind and organisational aspirations are best demonstrated in the personal specification of her funeral arrangements today. Little was left to 'chance'. Indeed, she even left a note at the end of her funeral details saying "*I've had a good life. Thank You everyone, God Bless you all.*" It broke my heart and those around her who read it!

May God Bless you too Freda!

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The following two poems were found among Freda's papers and were read at her service by her niece, Brenda.

When as a child, I laughed and wept,  
time crept.

When as a youth I thought and talked,  
time walked.

When I became a full grown man,  
time ran.

When older still I daily grew,  
time flew.

Soon I shall find on passing on,  
time gone.

Youth is not a time of life, it is a state of mind.

It is the freshness of the deep Spring of life.

Nobody grows old merely by living a number of years.

People grow old by deserting their ideals.

Whether sixty or sixteen, every human being may experience wonder ...  
the undaunted challenge of events, the unfailing childlike appetite for the future, the joy of living!

## GARDEN PARTY

Despite an ominous sky the garden party held at Marion and Michael's home was well attended. A splendid selection of sandwiches and cakes were provided. When the rain eventually fell we retreated indoors to draw the raffle.



## Tribute to Sheila Hall

Sheila was born in Barking in 1925 and today would have been her 89th birthday. She was the youngest of 7 children and was born into a close fun loving family that was actively involved in the Congregational Church and all its activities. As a teenager during WW2 Sheila was evacuated to Hampshire to stay with an older sister and also attended secretarial college. Later she was employed in the same firm as her father and was told that the only day he was late for work was the day that she was born.

Whilst travelling up and down to London to work she met Ron who was dared by his pals to talk to her. It was obviously meant to be as they were married in June 1957 and moved to Sidcup where they bought a house in Valliers Wood Road which became their family home and where Sheila continued to live until recently. Their family was complete with the birth of their two daughters, Sheron and Beverley, and they proved to be excellent parents, spending a lot of time with the girls and being very involved in their lives. During this time the whole family were much involved with Sidcup URC in Station Road with the girls attending Guides and Brownies. As the girls grew up Sheila took a part time job in the linen room at Avery Hill college and after retiring took up voluntary work at the Speech therapy unit at Queen Marys Hospital which I know she thoroughly enjoyed.

Sheila and Ron were delighted to have 4 grandchildren who brought them great joy and they enjoyed being grandparents. After Ron retired they were able to enjoy some years together before Ron died in 2001. Ron's death left a big hole in Sheila's life but being Sheila she was able to pick up the pieces and make the rest of her life as happy as she could. I know that she really valued the support of her family and friends and neighbours.

### *Sheila's family*

I first knew Sheila when she and Ron transferred to this church from the URC. They always sat a couple of rows behind us so we would always exchange a few words. But I got to know Sheila personally after Ron died when I joined the Friendship Club. Sheila had been instrumental in ensuring the Friendship Club continued from the URC to Emmanuel and was secretary and the driving force for many years. Sheila worked hard to get speakers each month, not an easy job, but somehow she managed it. She also organised our meal out in the summer and made sure we had mince pies at Christmas. When the numbers started to decline, mainly due to age, speakers were more difficult to find and Sheila would ask members to take the meeting. It was not easy to say no to her.

As you know Sheila's mobility was quite limited but she refused all offers of lifts and help insisting that she could manage on the bus. However, after a small incident one day on her way to church she agreed that I could give her lifts. It was during these short journeys that I really got to know Sheila. She would tell me about her childhood and her life with Ron. I know that one of the happiest times of

her life was when she and Ron moved to Sidcup and had their family. We would reminisce about Sidcup and how it had changed in the last 50 years. But we also spent a lot of time laughing. I used to call her Independent Annie because she was so determined to do things on her own.

I remember one evening I took her home, it was before her walking became really bad. I drew up at the house and before I could get out of the car to help her she was halfway up the driveway digging into her handbag searching for her door keys. It was very dark and she couldn't find them so I returned to the car to get a torch and there I found Sheila's handbag. It was my bag she was rifling through. When I told her we laughed so much that I thought the neighbours would come out to see what the noise was.

We have missed Sheila at Church these last few months but I know that she was a true believer and that she is now re-united with Ron at last.

*Jenni Thornton*

**CHRISTMAS MARKET**  
**SATURDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER**  
**10.00AM TO 1.00PM**  
**EMMANUEL CHURCH HALL**  
**CRAFT CAKES RAFFLE GAMES**  
**REFRESHMENTS**

**Men's Supper Club**

We will be meeting as usual during the winter season October to March on the second Wednesday in the month at 7.30pm

October 8

November 12



# Dates For Your Diary

## September

Mon	1	Women's hour 2.00 pm	
Tue	2		
Wed	3		
Thu	4		
Fri	5	Coffee morning 10.30 am	
Sat	6		
Sun	7	10.30 am Mrs Julie Gardner	
Mon	8	Women's hour 2.00 pm	
Tue	9		
Wed	10		
Thu	11	Bells 10.30 am	
Fri	12	Coffee morning 10.30 am	
Sat	13		4 - 6pm Messy Church (Holiday celebrations)
Sun	14	10.30 am Rev Juliet Ushewokunze	Communion
Mon	15	Women's hour 2.00 pm	
Tue	16		
Wed	17		Lunch in the Green Room 1.00 pm
Thu	18		
Fri	19	Coffee morning 10.30 am	
Sat	20		
Sun	21	10.30 am Mr John Sennett	Parade and Family service Harvest Festival Lunch
Mon	22	Women's hour 2.00 pm	
Tue	23		
Wed	24		
Thu	25	Bells 10.30 am	
Fri	26	Coffee morning 10.30 am	
Sat	27		
Sun	28	10.30 am Rev Juliet Ushewokunze	
Mon	29	Women's hour 2.00 pm	
Tue	30		

# Dates For Your Diary

## October

Wed	1		
Thu	2		
Fri	3	Coffee morning 10.30 am	
Sat	4		
Sun	5	10.30 am Mrs Gillian Dodds	
Mon	6	Women's hour 2.00 pm	
Tue	7		
Wed	8		7.30pm Men's supper club
Thu	9	Bells 10.30 am	
Fri	10	Coffee morning 10.30 am	
Sat	11		4 - 6pm Messy Church (4 Seasons)
Sun	12	10.30 am Rev Juliet Ushewokunze	Communion
Mon	13	Women's hour 2.00 pm	
Tue	14		
Wed	15		Lunch in the Green Room 1.00 pm
Thu	16		
Fri	17	Coffee morning 10.30 am	
Sat	18		
Sun	19	10.30 am Rev Juliet Ushewokunze	Parade and Family service
Mon	20	Women's hour 2.00 pm	
Tue	21		
Wed	22		
Thu	23	Bells 10.30 am	
Fri	24	Coffee morning 10.30 am	
Sat	25		
Sun	26	10.30 am Rev David Gillman	
Mon	27	Women's hour 2.00 pm	
Tue	28		
Wed	29	10.30 am Elder's Council	
Thu	30	Bells 10.30 am	
Fri	31	Coffee morning 10.30 am	Annual Church meeting

# Dates For Your Diary

## November

Sat	1		
Sun	2	10.30 am	Mr Ralph Brandhorst
Mon	3	Women's hour	2.00 pm
Tue	4		
Wed	5		
Thu	6	Bells	10.30 am
Fri	7	Coffee morning	10.30 am
Sat	8		4 - 6pm Messy Church (Food)
Sun	9	10.30 am	Rev Juliet Ushewokunze Communion.
Mon	10	Women's hour	2.00 pm
Tue	11		
Wed	12		7.30pm Men's supper club
Thu	13		
Fri	14	Coffee morning	10.30 am
Sat	15		
Sun	16	10.30 am	Rev Juliet Ushewokunze Parade and Family service
Mon	17	Women's hour	2.00 pm
Tue	18		
Wed	19		Lunch in the Green Room 1.00 pm
Thu	20	Bells	10.30 am Outlook Copy due
Fri	21	Coffee morning	10.30 am
Sat	22		
Sun	23	10.30 am	Mr David Gloin
Mon	24	Women's hour	2.00 pm
Tue	25		
Wed	26		
Thu	27		
Fri	28	Coffee morning	10.30 am Decorate church for Christmas
Sat	29	Christmas Market	10.00am
Sun	30	10.30 am	Mrs Heather Williams Church AGM

# Weekday Activities

Monday	2.00pm 5.45pm 6.30pm 7.30pm	Woman's Hour 3rd Sidcup Beavers 3rd Sidcup Cub Scouts 3rd Sidcup Scouts
Tuesday	2.30pm	Craft Group (monthly)
Thursday	10.00am 8.00pm	Ladies Morning Club Choir
Friday	10.30am—noon 1.30pm 6.00pm 7.30pm	Coffee Morning Parents & Toddlers Club 6th Sidcup Brownies 4th Sidcup Guides



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