

Opportunities for Coffee and Fellowship within the Circuit:

Burnt Ash:

Wednesday mornings 10am–12 noon

Eltham Park:

3rd Saturday of every month 10.30-12 noon

Sunfields:

Saturday mornings 10am–12 noon



The **Methodist Church** 

Blackheath and Crystal Palace Circuit Quarterly Newsletter

Issue 1

March 2013

Superintendent Minister's Letter

Dear Friends, welcome to the first newsletter for our new Circuit.

Each quarter there will be a focus upon one of the churches within the Circuit, and we thought that we might approach this alphabetically... so thank you Anerley! By the publication of the eleventh newsletter around Christmas 2015, we should all have a fuller knowledge of each other's churches.

We are also hoping to include details of regular events - such as coffee mornings, as well as a list of forthcoming events. This will be greatly assisted if you could let Linda in the Circuit Office know of future dates for inclusion. Thank you.

This first newsletter also allows me to thank all of those who were instrumental in the formation of the new Circuit last September, and those who continue to work for God in our churches and Circuit.

Our first issue appears during Lent. At this time we recall Jesus' rejection of the temptations in the wilderness, and his faithful walk along the road to Jerusalem. In word and deed he affirmed his obedience to God's call, and his own identity.

As we travel through this time in our readings and prayers towards the events of Holy Week, may we pray that in our life together as churches and as a Circuit we may reflect something of God's call in Christ - a call of obedience to God, and service to one another within and outside our church walls.

God bless, Stephen



Maundy Thursday Services Thursday 28th March

Eltham Park	8pm
Forest Hill	8pm
Sunfields at URC	8pm
Upper Norwood	7pm

Circuit Forthcoming Events

Sunday 17 th March	Circuit Hymn Service 'Lord for the Years'	Forest Hill	4pm
Thursday 25 April	Local Preachers' & Worship Leaders	Lewisham	8pm
Sunday 12 th May	Circuit Easter Offering Service	Forest Hill	4pm
Saturday 22 June	Summer Garden Party	Forest Hill	

District Forthcoming Events

Tuesday 12 th March	Ministerial Synod	Notting Hill	
Saturday 27 April	Synod	Central Hall	10am
Sunday 19 th May	Ordinands' Testimony Service	Wesley's Chapel	6.30pm

Anerley Burnt Ash Eltham Park Forest Hill Hither Green
Lewisham Sunfields Upper Norwood Wesley Hall

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Focus on... Anerley

The Church at Anerley dates back to 1865, when the church/schoolroom was built, under the auspices of the Wesleyan Methodist Church (Brixton Hill Circuit), although there are records of house meetings taking place in the locality from 1862. A large church seating 1,000 people was completed in 1879 on land in front of the school-room facing Jasmine Grove. This building was destroyed in an air-raid during 1940. The schoolroom was also severely damaged by incendiaries, and the congregation then worshipped in 'The Hut', a corrugated iron structure at the rear of the premises. After the war the schoolroom was remodelled and has served as our church ever since; so in a sense we are back where we started!

In 1965 the premises were again remodelled and a large hall was added specifically to serve the needs of the local community. In 1979 a severe arson attack removed the roof of the church, and a year later a further attack caused smoke damage to the large hall. These events caused us to question whether we should continue, but in faith we rebuilt and made changes, and, although minor alterations have been made since, this is basically the church premises we have today. Our premises are well-used by the local community and we provide facilities for a wide range of different activities. Regular uses include four other Faith groups, a flourishing pre-school, self-defence & keep fit group, dance and drama groups for young people and a dog training school.

Although not a large church (just over 50 members), people have remarked on our warm and welcoming atmosphere. Our congregation encompasses all ages, from babies to 90+, and many different ethnic backgrounds. In addition to our Sunday services we have a growing Junior Church. We also have regular Bible Studies, a monthly house-group, and a weekly social club.

We are looking forward to our 150th Anniversary in two years' time. We hope that many of you will find the opportunity to come to Anerley then and share in our celebrations.

News from around the Circuit

Circuit Mission in Britain Bric-a-Brac Sale at Burnt Ash on 16 February:

The sale raised £355.00: thank you to all who supported the event either by donating goods, setting out, selling, or coming along to buy.

Could you be a part of the Conference supporting team?

The Methodist Conference is coming to London from 4 – 11 July 2013. Volunteer stewards, help desk people, collators and drivers are needed. Why not come see what all the fuss is about?

Contact Nwabisa Ewing if you would like to help on

Nwabisa@methodistlondon.org.uk

Deadline for information for next newsletter:

15th June 2013

Please email details to: office.bcpc@btinternet.com

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