

Opportunities for Coffee and Fellowship within the Circuit:

Burnt Ash:	
Wednesday mornings	10am–12 noon
Eltham Park:	
3 rd Saturday of every month	10.30-12 noon
Forest Hill:	
Tuesday Fellowship	2pm–3.30pm
Sunfields:	
Saturday mornings	10am–12 noon





The Methodist Church

Blackheath and Crystal Palace Circuit

Quarterly Newsletter

Issue 11

September 2015

Superintendent Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

Within Methodism, September is the start of the new Church year. In some churches, such as Sunfields in our Circuit, the annual Covenant Service is held in September rather than in January, to mark this new beginning. Around the Methodist Connexion ministers will be taking up their new appointments, and in our District Revd Nigel Cowgill begins his term as one of the three Chairs. We remember those engaged in change, both ministers and congregations, in our prayers.

In any period of change, we have to make adjustments in how we see the world around us, and in our relationships with one another. Whilst such adjustment is far from being a bad thing, it can be difficult, and it is good to be able to remind ourselves of those things upon which we can rely as being constant. For many people, it is in this area that faith has an important part to play.

The hymn “Great is thy faithfulness”, speaks of the constancy of God, and includes the lines:

*“Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been thou for ever wilt be”.*

Over the years, our individual relationship with God will develop, indeed if it is a serious relationship, it must develop. But in all the changes that take place, he is constant in his love and care for us and for those whom we love, and on this we can rely.

May God bless us as we commence this new Church year together, may it be a time of discovering new things with God, and also a time of enjoying his constant presence, love and grace.

God bless,
Stephen

Circuit/Church Forthcoming Events

Tues 8 th Sept.	7.30 pm	Circuit Leadership Team Meeting	Burnt Ash
Sat 12 th Sept.		District Synod	Methodist Central Hall
Thur 17 th Sept.	7.45pm	Circuit Meeting	Lewisham
Sat 3 rd Oct.	10am	Safeguarding Training	Forest Hill
Tues 6 th Oct.	7.45pm	LP & WL meeting	Burnt Ash
Mon 12 th Oct.	7.30pm	Manses Meeting	Burnt Ash
Sun. 25 th Oct.	5pm	Circuit Service	Hither Green
Sun. 29 th Nov.	6.30pm	Circuit Christingle Service	Anerley



Living hope is a project which aims to provide good quality education for disadvantaged children in Baddomalhi, Pakistan

There is a massive need for basic education in Pakistan. English language learning and general stationary resources are difficult to get hold of and very expensive. **Living Hope** would really appreciate the following items:

- Story books with CDs will help them hear the native English language.
- English and Math work books (Dry wipe ones can be used multiple times)
- Children's science books
- Children's thesaurus/dictionaries
- Children's educational books – Nature/Animals/World religions/Biology

Thank you for your generosity and support,
God bless, Trustees of Living Hope

Further details available from Revd Imran Malik i_malik@mail.com

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

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Back by popular demand, early notification of:

Blackheath & Crystal Palace Circuit Weekend

Friday evening to Sunday afternoon

17th – 19th June 2016

at

**High Leigh Conference Centre
Hertfordshire**

Cost: £144 per person for an en-suite room (includes accommodation and meals from Friday tea-time to Sunday lunch)

A booking has been secured for 35 rooms, including doubles, and as allocation of rooms will be on a 'first come, first served' basis, we are asking that you register an interest as soon as possible as numbers will be limited. In registering an interest you are in no way committing to the booking but will be included on a priority list for securing a place on the weekend.

Further details are available from Stephen.

Please email Linda Ryan at the Circuit office office.bcp@btinternet.com if you wish to register an interest, confirming name(s) and whether or not you are willing to share a room

For more information about High Leigh:

www.cct.org.uk/high-leigh

Circuit Website: bhcpmethodist.org.uk

Deadline for information for next newsletter:

1st December 2015

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

CIRCUIT MISSIONS & MWiB SUMMER GARDEN PARTY

Saturday 13th June was a rather gloomy summer's day– but the large gazebos were ready for rain or sunshine. With a number of stalls outside, the joyful music, bunting & balloons created the ideal atmosphere for our Summer Garden Party. A huge thank you to friends from our nine Churches, and from the wider community, who contributed to making this event so enjoyable.

- The efficiency of the planning committee in organising – advertising, donations of refreshments, items for sale/raffle /tombola and financial contributions from the Churches.
- Teams serving refreshments and cashiers for their patience & hard work.
- Everyone who managed stalls & contributed to the games & raffle.
- Hirers of tables; who expressed their pleasure at being there.
- Mary & Graham Sparkes who provided a variety of music which added to the festive spirit.
- All who helped in setting up on Friday evening & Saturday morning and packing up & clearing away at the end.
- Everyone attending the Garden Party & contributing to the funds!

All the hard work by everyone which contributed to the success and the enjoyment of the Summer Garden Party is greatly appreciated.

The final amount collected was £925.00 in aid of the MWiB Project TLC 'Transforming lives and Communities'. It is in three parts. One part is supporting the work of RAHAB which works with prostitutes, enabling them to regain their lives and self-respect. The name comes from the story of Rahab in the Bible (Joshua 2:10). The other part is 'Building Bridges through Mission Projects' supporting the work of a Deacon in South Africa who through her mission is seeking to empower women through training programmes. This year the third part is supporting the Dalit Women's cry for justice against caste discrimination. MWiB is working with the Church of North India & has pledged to raise £50,000 in the next five years to support the education of Dalit girls & women's self-help groups. It was decided by the Executive to apportion 30% of the project funds to this cause.

*Ira Fernando,
Circuit Missions & MWiB Secretary*

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