



# The **Methodist** Church

## Blackheath and Crystal Palace Circuit

### Quarterly Newsletter

Issue 7

September 2014

#### Superintendent Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

Welcome to our September Circuit newsletter which marks the beginning of the new church year, and we are pleased to have a contribution from Revd Bill Tardy as part of this edition. We are looking forward as a Circuit to getting to know Bill and Renate over the coming months.

We also look back in this edition to the Circuit weekend last June, and to Imran's Ordination at around the same time. Both were very memorable occasions and I hope you will enjoy reading about them.

Sunfields is our church-focus this time, and as Bill's welcome service took place there, that seems very appropriate.

I hope you enjoy reading the various contributions as we begin a new year together. May we continue to know God's presence and blessing with us as we move forward in Christ's name.

*Stephen*

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#### Opportunities for Coffee and Fellowship within the Circuit:

##### **Burnt Ash:**

Wednesday mornings 10am–12 noon

##### **Eltham Park:**

3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month 10.30-12 noon

##### **Forest Hill:**

Tuesday Fellowship 2pm–3.30pm

##### **Sunfields:**

Saturday mornings 10am–12 noon



#### Circuit Forthcoming Events

Thurs 18 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Circuit Meeting	7.45pm	Hither Green
Thurs 2 <sup>nd</sup> Oct	LWP meeting	7.45pm	Forest Hill
Wed. 8 <sup>th</sup> Oct.	Circuit Missions meeting	7.30pm	Forest Hill
Sat 11 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Living Hope Quiz	7pm	Anerley
Sat. 8 <sup>th</sup> Nov.	LP Study day	10am	Hither Green

#### Church Forthcoming Events

Thur/Fri 4 <sup>th</sup> /5 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	'Cinderella'	7.45pm	Burnt Ash
Sat. 6 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	'Cinderella'	1.30 & 6pm	Burnt Ash
Sat. 13 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	Theatre Club Christmas Entertainment		Wesley Hall

#### Circuit Website: [bhcpmethodist.org.uk](http://bhcpmethodist.org.uk)

Deadline for information for next newsletter:

**1<sup>ST</sup> December 2014**

Please email details to: [office.bcpc@btinternet.com](mailto:office.bcpc@btinternet.com)

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## We offer a very warm welcome to Bill Tardy and his wife Renate to our Circuit.

Bill has written a short profile of himself as he embarks upon 'One More Step' in his life of Christian witness here in the Blackheath & Crystal Palace Circuit:

At times, it seems like my life has been one of an unending caravan; stopping at a wonderful array of oases and then embarking again. At the age of 17, I left my hometown of Houlton, Maine to attend university in Rhode Island. I paused there for one year before I moved to another university to pursue my love of Oceanography.

After achieving a technical degree in Marine Science & Marine Biology, I enlisted in the United States Navy. I spent my next ten years engaged in the study and analysis of underwater sound. It was during this period that I lived in Bermuda, California, Antigua, Virginia and a little island off the coast of Alaska. While never being on a ship, I appreciated the opportunity to meet a wonderful variety of people.

After my time in the Navy, I returned to university and pursued a degree in Secondary Education. In my first year of teaching, I taught History, Government and Economics at a parochial boarding academy. It was during this experience that I discovered a passion for helping students who were challenged by the regular academic environment. To meet this challenge, I returned to university again and completed a Masters of Education in Educational Diagnostics and Special Education. In the coming years, I taught in a variety of locations from Texas to Ohio.

I was in Ohio when I received the call to ministry. The children and I were attending a United Methodist church in Southeast Ohio, while I was teaching 5-11 year olds at a local primary school. I had been

In the morning, after a fulfilling breakfast, an enthusiastic man with a huge staff in the hand never gave us any room for snoozes during his session! His teaching affected the way we communicate messages. It was only after the last group presentation, we then realised how quickly the morning had passed - it was lunch time. The story teller, Mr Ken Luxon was brilliant!

A siesta would have been the best preference after a tasty lunch. Oops! It was time to make a move to nearby Hatfield House. What a beautiful place, with true reflection of the English heritage. The weather was just right, warm enough, but not too hot as we toured around the extensive house and gardens. *Editor's note: Do visit our website to view photos taken on the day.*

Back to the centre with a rest, everyone was refreshed and eager with group contributions in preparation for the next day Sunday service. The rest of the evening was left for entertainment. All performers were enthusiastic. Our circuit is rich; we 'have got talent'! We could not stop laughing, smiling, cheering, and meditating to the glory of God. A very 'professional' band from the circuit played music which touched the heart with praises to the Lord. Wonderful time of drama, recitals, readings, music etc., our hearts were filled with joy as we parted for the night.

Day 3 marked the end of the programme with a joyous worship service where everyone was involved and we were all for blessed!

We give all glory to God! He shows in His people, inspires, empowers and enables them to extend the wonders of His goodness and holiness. Our Superintendent Rev. Dr. Stephen Maunder, our circuit ministers, our circuit administrator and all those who were behind the scene; take all the credit. Great moments to remember!

*With thanks to Annie Mokgohloa for this report*

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He recalled that it was necessary for those who entered the Ministry to humble themselves before God. That being a Minister did not set you above others and that ordination was not carried out by the President or the Bishop but by the Gift of The Holy Spirit. He reminded everyone of the thoughts expressed by Rev. Ruth Gee in her recent pastoral address to Ministers at Conference that Ordination was a life changing experience:

*after I felt the weight of hands laid on my head in the context of prayer, my relationship with the church, with society and with God became that of a presbyter. From the moment of ordination my network of relationships changed. At that time I compared it with childbirth and with the realisation I had as a very new mother that although I was the same person, my life and my relationships had changed fundamentally and it was a change that would affect my whole being.*

We all have an important role to play in supporting Imran as he continues his journey of Faith; Indeed we all have a responsibility to fulfil the promise we made in the Service to ‘Uphold him in his Ministry’

*With thanks to David Hynes for this article*

## **Circuit Weekend Report**

High Leigh Conference Centre is a quiet and welcoming resort. It is the ideal place; conducive to building up both physical and spiritual relationships. At just a glance, the atmosphere proclaims: ‘The Almighty God is within the vicinity’.

An introductory activity to the programme brought about togetherness within the group. Its impact stretched through to the evening meal conversations. And even the late arrivals joined in, ‘I am the (month) baby’ creating ties within the group. Everyone looked forward to the events of day 2 as we retired to our respective rooms.

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assisting as a Local Preacher but had never imagined that I would be called to leave teaching and go into the ministry.

Once God revealed the path, I was off to seminary and to another part of Ohio to serve as a Student Minister and then ultimately as an ordained Elder within the United Methodist Church. As you can tell, this is the mere bare bones of a life lived in many locations and celebrated in the midst of many people. Life has brought many challenges but God has consistently supported and strengthened me for the travel.

Bill Tardy

## **Living Hope Project**

### **Quiz Night**

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2014**

**7pm – 10pm**

Main Hall, Anerley Methodist Church,  
Oakfield Road, SE20 8QA

Form teams of 3 – 6 players or come and watch

Tickets in advance from:

Andrew & Valerie Tredinnick on 0208 658 2347

Any donation will be welcome

but may we suggest adults £7.50, children £5  
(includes refreshments and musical entertainment)

Please do help us to raise money  
for Imran’s school in Pakistan

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## Focus on ... Sunfields Methodist Church Blackheath

The first Sunfields Methodist Church was built in 1901-2. Unfortunately, it had to be rebuilt in 1955-6 after sustaining extensive damage during the Second World War. At the beginning of 2002, due to the high running costs of maintaining the church and associated buildings, it was agreed to sell off half the existing site, and use the proceeds to build a new church. The new Sunfields Methodist Church opened on the 27 June 2009.

Membership currently stands at 34, with a congregation that fluctuates between 20 and 50. There is Junior Church provision each week in term time (except for the monthly planned all age worship service) but sadly very few children! We have good ecumenical links across the Charlton and Blackheath area; worship with Charlton URC every 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday evening and on Maundy Thursday; joining the annual Good Friday ecumenical walk of witness to Whitfields Mount on Blackheath; and have shared art exhibitions, devotional activities such as Stations of the Cross and a production of the medieval Mystery Plays with different churches in the area. We are discussing plans for this coming year to join a 'Live Nativity' and 'Palm Sunday Live' with other Charlton churches in the streets around Sunfields and St John's.

Our premises are well used Monday to Friday by the RIMU Music Nursery in the day time; in the evening we hold church meetings, Bible Studies and meetings of the local W.I. We are also a collection point for the Greenwich Food Bank. On Saturdays, alongside the thriving dance school Baby Ballet, we hold a regular coffee/drop-in for all-comers. During 2013 one of the Saturday drop-ins was replaced by a successful Coffee Morning and Bring and Buy in aid of Macmillan Cancer Care; which we plan to repeat this autumn.

We have a diverse congregation, reflecting the surrounding community; several parts of Africa are represented, as well as Latin America, Asia and the West Indies. Although we are not a large

church, people do comment on the friendly and welcoming atmosphere.

We are fortunate to be well placed financially, and a working party is currently looking at how we can best use our resources, possibly by employing someone to help with the property/maintenance, or on the pastoral/community outreach side, to support and enhance the life of the church.

## Ordination of Rev. Imran Malik

On Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2014 several members of the Circuit travelled to Wolverhampton to be present and to support Rev. Imran Malik at his Ordination. Their various journeys to be there were nothing compared to Imran's spiritual journey from his home village of Baddomalhi in Pakistan to this moment of Ordination as a Presbyter (Minister) in the Methodist Church.

Imran was one of seven Ordinands confirmed at the ceremony in the imposing surroundings of a traditional galleried Methodist Church at Darlington Street. Amazingly the people of the church had pulled out all the stops to make good severe smoke damage resulting from a fire earlier in the year, which but for their energy and commitment might have caused the event to be relocated. Guests were welcomed by the Superintendent Minister of the Church Rev. David Lavender.

The Service, which was enriched by some rousing Methodist Singing was led with great feeling by the President of Conference Rev. Kenneth Howcroft. The sermon was given by the Bishop of Coventry the Rt Revd. Dr. Christopher Cocksworth. The Bishop spoke of the need for a United Church, of his own journey to Ministry and of the doubts he, like others have experienced in answering God's calling.

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