



The Methodist Church

Blackheath and Crystal Palace Circuit Quarterly Newsletter

Issue 8

December 2014

Superintendent Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

How good are you at waiting? Do you wait patiently in queues without complaining, or does frustration overcome you? How do you feel when the dreaded music begins as you are waiting on the phone for an answer from a call-centre? There can be little doubt that waiting can be extremely frustrating, especially when we are in a hurry. Waiting can also be a rather more deeply stressful experience. The waiting for an examination result which could change the future, or a hospital-test report where the outcome is of crucial importance. Waiting can upset how we feel.

But waiting also has positive elements associated with it that can easily be forgotten in our modern and fast-moving world. It is respectful to wait for another person to make their point - especially if they don't find it easy so to do. It is right to wait for a physically-slower person to move. Waiting can demonstrate the respect that we have for one another, and a lack of patience can give evidence of the opposite.

During the weeks leading up to Christmas, we wait. We wait not only in queues for car-parks or in shops, but as Christian people we wait. In waiting we join with Mary in anticipation of the arrival of Jesus, and we share in readings concerned with the waiting for God's Kingdom to be fully realised. As we wait, we do so in active anticipation as we look forward to celebrate the event that changed everything. In our waiting we live as people whose lives are not only to reflect the coming Kingdom, but who actively look for signs of that Kingdom at work today.

I am not sure how good my patient waiting will be over the coming weeks as the shops fill up, roads become busier, and time passes rather too quickly. But I do pray for God's help in knowing when to act, and when to wait, because both can be signs of His Kingdom. I also pray that however you wait, and however you celebrate, you may know God's presence and peace in this season.

God bless,
Stephen

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

Forest Hill:

Tuesday Fellowship 2pm-3.30pm

Sunfields:

Saturday mornings 10am-12 noon



Church Forthcoming Events

Thur/Fri 4th/5th Dec. 'Cinderella' 7.45pm Burnt Ash
Sat. 6th Dec. 'Cinderella' 1.30pm (sold out) & 6pm Burnt Ash
Sat. 13th Dec. Afternoon Tea Concert 3pm Wesley Hall

Carols Services around the Circuit

7th December

8pm Upper Norwood, United service led by Rev. I. Malik

14th December

6.30pm Anerley led by D. Hynes

21st December

10.30am Hither Green led by M. Boothe

10.30am Sunfields led by G. Young

Refreshments after service

11am Wesley Hall led by L. Barth & S. Clifton

4pm Eltham Park led by Rev. Dr. S Maunder

5pm Forest Hill led by Rev. P. Clews (with Christingle)

6pm Burnt Ash led by LP team

Refreshments plus carol singing in the hall afterwards in aid of Action for Children

6.30pm Lewisham led by Rev. Dr. S Maunder

6.30pm Upper Norwood Rev. J. Taylor



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

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

Focus on ... Lewisham Methodist Church

18th Century Lewisham was effectively a country village where prosperous Londoners owned houses to escape from the growing city. One of these houses was a frequent place of retreat for John Wesley, especially between 1746 and 1782. By the mid-nineteenth century the population was beginning to grow and new houses were built. With this increase in population, those who counted themselves as Methodists looked for a site for a Church, and Lewisham Wesleyan Methodist Church was built in 1870 in what is now Albion Road. It was complete with a spire, as well as space for considerably more worshippers than the membership of that time - or any time since!

In 1944 the Church suffered considerable damage by a flying bomb during the Second World War, and was deemed not to be repairable. A new building took time to plan and build and was not opened until 1953 at a cost of £24,000. This second building did not last as long as the first, and gave way to the Church which we know today. The current set of premises were built during the ministry of Revd Wesley Cooke and were the result of much hard work and determination from the members at the time, their minister, and friends from around the Circuit. The Church was completed almost 20 years ago, with the Hall following later.

The current building is therefore the third Methodist Church on the site, and provides a warm, functional, and easily-maintained set of premises which are well-used by the community as well as the congregation. The presence of the car-park has benefitted the Church over the years not only for those using the buildings, but for shoppers on a Saturday morning with a faithful few 'manning' the gates to provide helpful income.

The Church is blessed with a good-sized congregation and most seats are occupied for Sunday morning worship. In the past few years the installation of a new audio-visual system allows for powerpoint to be used for morning worship, with services transmitted into one of the halls if attendance is especially high. This has been of great benefit as a means of enhancing worship, and encouraging rousing singing as the congregation looks up to the screen. In addition to excellent organ music, some of the children and young adults play the steel pans on occasions in worship, especially for open-air services and at Christmas. A Tuesday fellowship meets for the ladies of the Church, as well as an evening Bible Study. There is an active Junior Church, who lead worship from time-to-time.

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

The Church is blessed with hard-working members who support the life of the congregation and the building in which the various activities take place.

Lewisham is a welcoming congregation with members originating from many nationalities, and we enjoy being together.

Circuit Forthcoming Events

Thursday 12 th Feb.	Circuit Meeting 7.45pm	Burnt Ash
Thursday 22 nd Jan.	LWP meeting 7.45pm	Wesley Hall

Quiz Night for Living Hope

Our thanks to everyone who supported the Quiz at Anerley which raised funds for the school built in Imran's home village in Pakistan. Our mystery Quizmaster was Valerie's brother, Barry, up from Portsmouth, who kept the eight competing teams in order. Peter Boreham provided musical entertainment at the interval (keyboard & violin) while the participants munched their way through jacket potatoes, hotdogs and slices of quiche. Ticket money donations came to £353.

The two stalls organised by Marian Young & Margaret Boreham, together with Imran's informative slideshow and display about the project, added more interest, and brought in a further £74, together with a donation of £10, making a total of £437 for the event.
Andrew & Valerie Tredinnick

Circuit Website: bhcpmethodist.org.uk

Deadline for information for next newsletter:

1st March 2015

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



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