



The Methodist Church

Blackheath and Crystal Palace Circuit Quarterly Newsletter

Issue 9

March 2015

Superintendent Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

This edition of the Circuit newsletter coincides with a significant part of the Church year as we make the Lenten journey with Jesus towards Jerusalem. The forty days of Lent is a mirror of the days which are recorded in the Gospels as the time Jesus spent in the wilderness following his baptism.

If you count the number of days between Ash Wednesday and Easter Day, you will, of course, arrive at more than 40! Different reasons are given for this, including the exclusion of Sundays, as they were always to be viewed as days of resurrection celebration - even in Lent. Rather than getting tied up with counting, however, it is rather more important to try to hold on to what these days are about. At his baptism, the voice from Heaven proclaimed the sonship of Jesus. This is then challenged by Satan in the wilderness as Jesus focusses upon his ministry and whom he will serve.

During Lent we are provided with various means through books, courses and worship itself in which we can focus minds, souls and hearts. The purpose of this, it seems to me, is fundamentally to ask ourselves the same question that the wilderness experience raised for Jesus - whom do we serve? The answer for Christians may be easily answered - "we serve God through our discipleship of Christ", but less easily lived out. Thus it is that by doing things a little differently we may discover a renewed focus upon how our faith in God is reflected in lives truly lived as his children.

May we know God's blessing as we continue to serve him in words and works at this time.

God bless,
Stephen

Opportunities for Coffee and Fellowship within the Circuit:

Burnt Ash:

Wednesday mornings 10am-12 noon

Eltham Park:

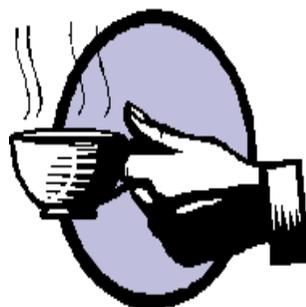
3rd Saturday of every month 10.30-12 noon

Forest Hill:

Tuesday Fellowship 2pm-3.30pm

Sunfields:

Saturday mornings 10am-12 noon



Maundy Thursday Services

Thursday 2nd April

Eltham Park (HC)	8pm
Forest Hill	8pm
Sunfields @ URC	7.30pm
Upper Norwood	7pm

Good Friday Services

Friday 3rd April

Anerley	9.15am
Burnt Ash	9.30am
Eltham Park	10.30am
Forest Hill	10.30am
Hither Green	10.30am
Lewisham	9.00am
Sunfields	10.30am
Wesley Hall	10.30am



Circuit Website: bhcpmethodist.org.uk

Deadline for information for next newsletter:

1st June 2015

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

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

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Focus on ... Upper Norwood Methodist Church

The current Methodist Church in Westow Hill is the third in Upper Norwood, and the second on this site, following a previous chapel around the corner in Gipsy Hill. A large church built in 1895 (it seated 1002) had the distinction of having the tallest spire in London. This church was demolished in 1962/3 and replaced by the current building in 1964. The architect was the late Edward Mills and the engineers were Ove Arup with some of the stained glass being retained from the earlier building and with some new designs by Gillian Rees Thomas. The current building also includes a hall, kitchen and other rooms on four levels; the development incorporates the supermarket next door and some flats above as well. The church can be found next door to the Iceland supermarket. The present Minister is the Rev. Imran Malik.

We currently have a membership of over 70 people of all ages representing many countries and more than one continent. Some of our congregation are also members of the Ghanaian Methodist Fellowship who meet monthly after our morning worship. The spiritual life of Upper Norwood is based on Sunday morning worship and a morning congregation varies between 40 and 60. During morning services, we offer a space at the back with carpet and toys for children to play. Older children are encouraged to join our youth church. Unfortunately, very few children and young people attend on a frequent or regular basis.

All are welcome to our services. We use a loop system for those with hearing difficulties. For those with sight difficulties, we use large-print hymn books and printed liturgy. There is provision for wheelchair access in the entrance hall and the church which are accessed at street-level, however our 'disabled' toilets are currently inaccessible to wheelchairs. We are working on resolving that issue.

We have coffee and biscuits after each morning service. In addition, there is an evening service with Holy Communion on the first Sunday of every month. This service is held in the chapel at the back of the main church. Five other churches also meet on the premises.

The church is a member of Churches Together in Upper Norwood, and ecumenical prayers are held here monthly on the first Wednesday morning of the month with members from all the other churches in the area attending with the ministers, in turn, leading the services.

Other regular activities include weekly table tennis, as well as a range of individual lettings to the community.

Circuit/Church Forthcoming Events

Fri. 6 th March	Women's World Day of Prayer	Forest Hill 7.30pm
Sat. 7 th March	Methodist Talents Festival	Shirley 10.30am
Sun. 8 th March	LP admission service	Forest Hill 5.30pm
Sat. 21 st March	Missions Coffee Morning In aid of 'Sark Sanctuary Centre' project	Burnt Ash 10am
Sun. 22 nd March	'Sing the Seasons' service Followed by refreshments	Forest Hill 4pm
Sat. 25 th April	District Synod	Central Hall
Sun. 26 th April	Easter Offering Service	Burnt Ash 4.30pm
Tues. 28 th April	LW & WL Meeting	Lewisham 7.45pm
Sat. 9 th May	Spring Fayre and Plant Sale	Burnt Ash
Thurs. 4 th June	Circuit Meeting	Anerley 7.45pm
Sat. 13 th June	Summer Garden Party	Forest Hill 11am

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