



The Methodist Church

Blackheath and Crystal Palace Circuit Quarterly Newsletter

Issue 10

June 2015

Superintendent Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

Inter-faith Walk

On a wet Sunday afternoon on the last day of May, 150-200 people from a variety of faith-backgrounds, together with the Mayor of Lewisham, Sir Steve Bullock, local MP Heidi Alexander, and a good representation from the local police, walked from the Synagogue in Catford to the Police Station in Lewisham via the Civic Centre, Islamic Centre, Methodist Church and Hindu Temple.

The event had been organised by a group of faith leaders and police in response to the murders in Paris last January, with the desire to demonstrate that people of differing beliefs could work - and walk - together for peace. At each location on the walk a candle was lit, and in those places which were religious centres, a reading from the Scripture of that place was read on the theme of peace.

We live in a multi-faith community in South East London, and the Lewisham event reminded us of that. It was good to be able to hold natural conversations with people of different faith, and to focus upon the positive relationships that are possible when people get to know each other.

A television team was present to record the event, and so if you are interested you might like to have a look at the programme when it comes out. The only slight problem is that they were from South Korean television! News of a walk for peace had travelled far.

Meeting those of differing backgrounds can change our perceptions, as Peter discovers in his encounter with Cornelius in Acts 10. The inter-faith walk encouraged such encounters, and we hope will be an event to be repeated.

God bless,

Stephen

Opportunities for Coffee and Fellowship within the Circuit:

Burnt Ash:

Wednesday mornings 10am-12 noon

Eltham Park:

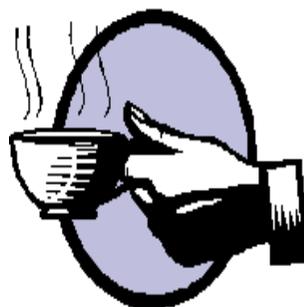
3rd Saturday of every month 10.30-12 noon

Forest Hill:

Tuesday Fellowship 2pm-3.30pm

Sunfields:

Saturday mornings 10am-12 noon



Sponsor a child at Living Hope School

Just £6.50 can change a life.

Your sponsorship can help give a child the tools to bring themselves and their family out of poverty, permanently.

How does it work?

Living Hope School provides free education for children living in poverty in Pakistan. This can only be done with your support.

£6.50 per month will provide a child with:

- Uniform
- Stationary
- Text books

And certainty of a good education

What do I get?

Twice a year your sponsor child will send you a letter, and you will receive an update about their personal situation and hopes for the future

To sponsor a child, or find out more please visit our website www.livinghopeproject.org Or call Imran on 07971794953

Living Hope Project is a registered Charity in England & Wales (1157086)

Circuit Website: bhcpmethodist.org.uk

Deadline for information for next newsletter:

1st September 2015

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

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

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Local Preacher Accreditation Service: 8th March 2015

Taiwo Dayo-Payne

When I was asked to write a few words about the Recognition service I wasn't sure quite what to say. The first thing that struck me about the evening was the wonderful supportive presence of family, friends and congregations around the circuit. This contributed to an almost overwhelming atmosphere of warmth and love. As we sang Liz's hymn selection, 'Take my life and let it be', the enormity of the occasion really hit me and I had to tell myself to take it in, moment by moment so I could remember.

It was a really special evening; the service was beautiful, more people attended than was expected and some thought there wouldn't be enough food to go around. People described it as like The 'Feeding of the Five Thousand' and it was, there was enough to go round, some people took food away and Liz and I took cake back to our churches so that some people who were unable to attend the service could share in the celebration.

It was definitely an evening to remember and one I will never forget.

Elizabeth Buck

On the Sunday evening of March 8th 2014, I was delighted and thrilled to see many of my family, friends, as well as members of the Circuit churches present at the Accreditation Service. Forest Hill Church was 'packed to the rafters'. It was a truly special day as over one hundred people came to celebrate with Taiwo and me. I felt that the large number of people present, reflected their love and support

The service was the culmination of our period of training lasting for two years – a period of exegetical studies, sermon preparations, various aspects of leading worship, many residential study weekends and opportunities for reflection. It was a period during which we cemented our learning, our understanding in fellowship and also one of rich personal growth. Consequently, I gained greater insight and confidence about what is required in order to minister to God's people as well as mission in its wider context.

The occasion was joyous, solemn and thought provoking. Indeed on that Sunday evening, I experienced a range of emotions. Despite the tough times and challenges ahead, I knew God will be with me every step of the way. My commitment to my call was deepened even more as we sang the hymn I'd chosen "Take my life and let it be".

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The letter of acknowledgement from the president of the Methodist Conference, which was read by the District Local Preachers' Secretary, also added to the significance of the occasion and heightened my awareness of my task to promote the glory of God and aim to live a 'Christ like' life.

Prior to the admission, the questions asked by the superintendent made it more apparent that to preach and lead people in worship, drawing relevant applications from scriptures about how we should live today is indeed a huge task. Preaching is a great challenge but also enjoyable and I felt assured God will be with me every step of the way.

Being a Local Preacher is and will always be a privilege. The Accreditation Service was a truly edifying spiritual moment – one I will remember for the rest of my life.

New Worship Leader and Local Preacher training course

A new course is being introduced to train those who feel led to serve as worship leaders and local preachers. Revd Jonathan Mead, who is Learning & Development Co-ordinator in our District, will be coming to talk about the course on Thursday July 2nd at the Circuit Meeting which is at Anerley at 7.45 p.m.

Anyone is welcome to come along to the first part of the meeting to hear from Jonathan, and there will then be a short break to allow people to leave before the meeting continues with its general business.

Circuit/Church Forthcoming Events

Sat. 13 th June	Summer Garden Party	Forest Hill	11am
Sat. 20 th June	Safeguarding training	Hither Green	10am
Sun. 21 st June	Farewell Service	Westminster	
	Revd Dr. Stuart Jordan	Central Hall	6.30pm
Thurs. 2 nd July	Circuit Meeting	Anerley	7.45pm
	Includes talk on new WL & LP training		
Thurs. 9 th July	Circuit Invitation Committee	Burnt Ash	8pm
Sat. 23 rd Aug.	Welcome Service		
	for new District Chair	Hinde Street	6pm
Sat. 3 rd Oct.	Safeguarding training	Forest Hill	10am

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