



# The Methodist Church

## Blackheath and Crystal Palace Circuit Quarterly Newsletter

Issue 16

December 2016

### Superintendent Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

Our Christmas newsletter takes us into Advent and then through the Christmas season with words such as "joy", "peace" and "goodwill" associated with it. No matter how many Carol Services we have attended, or Nativity plays we have seen, there is still something about this season of the Christian calendar which continues to bring us joy, peace, and goodwill.

The Christmas story is one that reaches to us across the ages because its central truth is timeless. That, in the gift of Jesus, God touches our lives with his love. It was there in the birth on that first Christmas morning, and it continues to be here for us as each heart is warmed by the reality of Christ's presence today.

When Jesus told the disciples to allow the children to come to him, he indicated the need for us to approach the things of God with childlike - not childish - hearts. Perhaps this time of year, more than any other, is the time for such a heart, open and available so that we can hear the angels' song.

May we be receptive to the invitation that God offers us to delight in the blessings of this season as we wait during Advent, and then we celebrate the birth of his Son, our Saviour.

God bless,  
*Stephen*

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

Deadline for information for next newsletter: **25<sup>th</sup> February 2017**

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

### Carol Services around the Circuit

**11<sup>th</sup> December**

**6.30pm** Anerley led by Jean Pogose

**18<sup>th</sup> December**

**10.30am** Hither Green

**10.30am** Sunfields led by Rev. Bill Tardy

**11am** Wesley Hall led by Sandra Clifton & Chris Watkins

**4pm** Eltham Park led by Rev. Stephen Maunder

**5pm** Forest Hill led by Rev. Pam Clews

**6.00pm** Upper Norwood Rev. Imran Malik

**6pm** Burnt Ash led by Linda Ryan

**6.30pm** Lewisham led by Rev. Stephen Maunder

### Family Nativity Services around the Circuit

**11<sup>th</sup> December**

**11am** Wesley Hall led by Rev. Pam Clews

**24<sup>th</sup> December**

**4pm** Eltham Park led by Rev. Stephen Maunder

### Christingle Services around the Circuit

**11<sup>th</sup> December**

**10.30am** Eltham Park led by Rev. Stephen Maunder

**11 am** Hither Green led by Rev. Bill Tardy

**25<sup>th</sup> December**

**9.30am** Burnt Ash led by Rev. Bill Tardy

### Watchnight Services: Sat. 31<sup>st</sup> Dec. 2016

Forest Hill Methodist Church: 11.15pm

Lewisham Methodist Church: 11.15pm

*All are welcome*



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

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## Christingle



Christingle services are held in churches, usually between Advent and Candlemas. It is an opportunity for people of all ages to join in, using oranges to create visible symbols of the Christian message.

The Christingle has its origins in a Moravian children's service held in a castle in Germany on Christmas Eve in 1747. The bishop conducting the informal service gave each child a lighted candle, tied with a red ribbon, in memory of the Saviour's coming which he said has kindled a flame in each heart which keeps burning "to His joy, and our happiness". Much later, this simple candle was replaced by a more elaborate Christingle which is rich in symbolism, yet still reminding us that Christ is the light who came into the world at Christmas.

- The Christingle orange represents the world, John reminds us that "Jesus was in the world, and though the world was made through Him, the world did not recognise Him. He came to that which was His own, but His own did not receive Him". (John 1:10-11).
- The red ribbon of the Christingle represents the blood of Jesus which was shed for us so that our sins may be forgiven. "But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from every sin". (1 John 1:7).
- The fruits and sweets on the four skewers represent God's gifts to us, the fruits of the earth and the four seasons. "As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease". (Genesis 8:22).
- The lighted candle, pushed into the centre of the orange, represents Christ, the light of the world. "He [Jesus] said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life". (John 8:12).



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## Church Forthcoming Events

8 <sup>th</sup> -10 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	College Park Players present: 'Snow White'		
	Thurs 8 <sup>th</sup> /Fri 9 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	7.45pm	Burnt Ash
	Sat. 10 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	1pm & 5.30pm	Burnt Ash
	Tickets £7 (£6 concessions): booking <a href="mailto:rynlnd@aol.com">rynlnd@aol.com</a>		
Tues. 13 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	'Messy Church'	3.30pm	Eltham Park
Wed. 14 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	'Encounter'	8.00 pm	
Pottery-on-the- Parade, Westmount Road, Eltham			

## Circuit Forthcoming Events

Thur. 12 <sup>th</sup> Jan. 2017	7.45pm	Circuit Treasurers Meeting	Burnt Ash
Thur. 19 <sup>th</sup> Jan. 2017	7.45pm	LP & WL meeting	Hither Green
Tues. 21 <sup>st</sup> Feb. 2017	7.45pm	Circuit Meeting	Lewisham
Wed. 1 <sup>st</sup> Mar. 2017		Ash Wednesday	



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

Dear Friends, Thank you for your continued support of Living Hope. Last time we visited the school, we realised that we had not provided enough storage space for all the resources we had brought. We have had custom built bookshelves and cupboards made for each class to enable easy access to all their learning resources. Each classroom now has a computer and large screen or projector, allowing the teachers to use online resources and videos in all their lessons. The children are really enjoying this.

Recently we had a music concert organised by Peter and Margaret Boreham at Anerley Methodist Church and raised £660 for the project. We used this money to buy school uniforms from Asda which will be shipped to Pakistan soon.

Sarah has begun her nursing studies at Croydon College and hopes to be a qualified nurse before her next journey to Pakistan. Imran has a 3 week trip planned in February to allow him to see the progress made at the school and continue any improvements.

Please continue to pray for the work of Living Hope and its community.

Thank you, God bless, *Imran & Sarah Malik*

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