

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

|                                         |               |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Burnt Ash:</b>                       |               |
| Wednesday mornings                      | 10am–12 noon  |
| <b>Eltham Park:</b>                     |               |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month | 10.30-12 noon |
| <b>Forest Hill:</b>                     |               |
| Tuesday Fellowship                      | 2pm–3.30pm    |
| <b>Sunfields:</b>                       |               |
| Saturday mornings                       | 10am–12 noon  |





# The Methodist Church

## Blackheath and Crystal Palace Circuit

### Quarterly Newsletter

Issue 13

March 2016

#### Superintendent Minister's Letter

Dear friends, many of you will know that I shall be 'on Sabbatical' for three months beginning after Easter Day, and I thought that it might be helpful to write a little about this.

Sabbaticals are a requirement for Methodist ministers and are therefore compulsory. They are seen by the church as being a vital opportunity for ministers to seek renewal and refreshment, and to pursue areas of interest for which there is otherwise little time. As the Church puts it:

*"A sabbatical is a gift from the Church to all presbyters and deacons and it is intended that during a sabbatical they will do something different which will inform and perhaps re-enthuse them in their ministry. For Methodist presbyters and deacons, a sabbatical is a time of grace allowing them to spend time with God doing something different."*

During the first part of the sabbatical, that "something different" will be time spent in Jamaica visiting some Methodist churches there, and meeting people. Angela will be able to be with me for the first part of the trip, and we are looking forward to the new experiences this will bring. In addition to the time in Jamaica, I shall also be spending some time away on retreat and attending particular courses and events, and I am looking forward to these opportunities for spiritual and personal renewal for which I feel much in need!

During the sabbatical, Circuit Superintendent responsibilities will rest with Pam, and I am grateful to her for her willingness to take on this role. General enquiries can be sent to Linda in the Circuit Office who will be able to re-direct them to the right person. Within my churches, care will continue to be offered by pastoral visitors and my staff colleagues. For immediate pastoral needs, Imran will be the contact minister for Lewisham, and Bill will be available for Eltham Park.

I look forward to this time as an opportunity to do different things for a few months, so that I can continue to serve the Circuit refreshed and renewed, and am very grateful to all whose work will increase a little during this period.

God bless,  
Stephen

#### Circuit/Church Forthcoming Events

|                               |                         |                        |         |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|---------|
| Tues. 8 <sup>th</sup> Mar.    | Leadership Team         | Burnt Ash              | 7.30pm  |
| Tues. 15 <sup>th</sup> Mar.   | Ministerial Synod       | Hinde Street           | 10.00am |
| Thurs. 21 <sup>st</sup> April | LWP meeting             | Wesley Hall            | 7.45pm  |
| Sat 23 <sup>rd</sup> April    | District Synod          | Methodist Central Hall |         |
| Sun 24 <sup>th</sup> April    | Circuit Easter Offering | Lewisham               | 4.30pm  |
| Sun. 29 <sup>th</sup> May     | Inter-Faith Walk        | Lewisham               |         |
| Sat. 25 <sup>th</sup> June    | Missions Garden Party   | Forest Hill            |         |
| Thurs. 14 <sup>th</sup> July  | Circuit Meeting         | Forest Hill            | 7.45pm  |

#### Maundy Thursday Services Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March

|                     |     |
|---------------------|-----|
| Anerley – Lovefeast | 7pm |
| Eltham Park         | 8pm |
| Forest Hill         | 8pm |
| Sunfields           | 8pm |

#### Good Friday Services Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March

|              |         |
|--------------|---------|
| Anerley      | 9.15am  |
| Burnt Ash    | 9.30am  |
| Eltham Park  | 10.30am |
| Forest Hill  | 10.30am |
| Hither Green | 10.30am |
| Lewisham     | 9.00am  |
| Wesley Hall  | 11.00am |



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

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## Blackheath & Crystal Palace Circuit Weekend

Following the success of our Circuit Weekend in 2014,  
a booking has been secured at

**High Leigh Conference Centre, Hertfordshire**  
**17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> June 2016**

### The theme of the weekend is *'Listening to God'*

Led by Pam, Bill and Imran, the Circuit Weekend offers adults from all the churches within the Blackheath & Crystal Palace Circuit an exciting opportunity to explore 'Listening to God' through scripture, prayer, music, art etc, as well as enjoy a relaxing time of fellowship and fun.

The weekend runs from Friday evening to Sunday afternoon, and costs £144 per person for an en-suite room (includes accommodation and meals from Friday tea-time to Sunday lunch)

A booking has been secured for 35 rooms and a limited number of spaces are still available. If you are interested but would like further information please talk to Pam, Bill or Imran.

### **THIS WEEKEND IS OPEN TO ALL, REGARDLESS OF WHERE YOU ARE ON YOUR JOURNEY OF FAITH**

Please email Linda Ryan at the Circuit office  
[office.bcpc@btinternet.com](mailto:office.bcpc@btinternet.com) if you wish to book a place on the weekend, confirming your name(s) and address, and whether or not you will require transport, or have any dietary/mobility needs

**For more information about High Leigh:**  
[www.cct.org.uk/high-leigh](http://www.cct.org.uk/high-leigh)

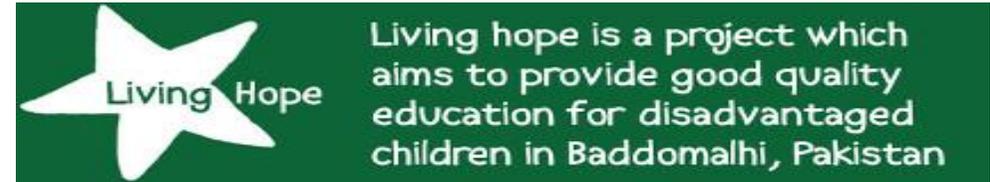
**Circuit Website:** [bhcpmethodist.org.uk](http://bhcpmethodist.org.uk)

Deadline for information for next newsletter:

**24<sup>th</sup> May 2016**

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

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



In God's providence and faithfulness and we are managing well with our regular expenses. Now we have total of 76 students, 4 teachers, a caretaker and an administrator. Two of our teachers and 6 students have been sponsored now. We hope that at some point all of our staff and students are sponsored so we can continue to extend the facilities to meet the demand and need of those who are still waiting for their opportunity to learn and transform their lives.

Recently we received a donation of £2000 from Uppermill Methodist Church thanks to the dedication of Rachel Collins. This donation enabled us to get some extra work done. We used this money to install windows and doors in two classrooms. Gradually we will be able to equip these rooms.

The Malik family will be going to Pakistan after Easter to spend just over two weeks school, will be sponsoring our own travel. During our time we will decorate the school, run computer sessions for the teachers, take the children for class trips to Lahore and work on the school curriculum.

During our time there we will also be assessing the possibility of building a community centre containing a children's library, resource centre and computer lab for community use. This could take years to achieve, but trusting God's faithfulness we will achieve this in the near future.

We are hoping to get solar panels installed before the summer to meet our energy needs. We have applied for a grant from Beckenham Rotary. If our application is successful we will get around £1200.

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

*Thank you,*

*God bless,*

*Imran & Sarah Malik*

**Further details available from Revd Imran Malik [i\\_malik@mail.com](mailto:i_malik@mail.com)**

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Lewisham Sunfields Upper Norwood Wesley Hall**