



The Methodist Church

Blackheath and Crystal Palace Circuit

Quarterly Newsletter

Issue 19

September 2017

Superintendent Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

Welcome to our Autumn newsletter which includes profiles of Abe and Dee following their move to the Circuit in August. We are delighted to have them amongst us, and look forward to their ministry over the coming years.

September is the time of new-beginnings in Methodism as our new year - and all the accompanying meetings! - start again. One such meeting was the District Synod which met on the second Saturday of September and had a focus upon the launch of a new District theme "Moving Stories". There will be further details about this over the coming months, but the challenge for us is how we respond to those who are on the move within our communities and churches. In practical and spiritual ways, for example, how do we welcome those who have moved to be here? What are we doing, and what more could we do?

The District theme culminates in a Conference next July when stories will be shared, so I hope that our Circuit and Churches will also have a story to tell about our response as people of God to those who move to be with us.

Scripture is full of stories of people on the move either in response to God's command - Abraham, Moses... Jonah! - or out of economic necessity - Naomi and Joseph's brothers for example. Frequently they concern moving to a foreign land and a new home, and God reminds his people that their treatment of others who have moved to be with them should be gracious because they too had been strangers in a strange land.

As we begin a new year, we welcome Dee and Abe who have travelled to be here, and we share the District focus on "Moving Stories" as we reflect on our calling to welcome and to care for the stranger.

God bless,
Stephen

My earliest recollection of Church was at the age of four, and always asked to recall 'the text for the day' by my great-grandmother. This strong but liberal Christian nurturing was heightened at a Methodist Secondary School in Ghana. Some of the things that have kept me spiritually excited since then have been my strong identity in Methodism's emphasis upon Wesleyan grace for all; its deeply-rooted theology in social justice and seeing the Gospel as transforming relationships and communities. Holy Communion, for me, is a conversion experience as well as remembrance. The music from the Taize and Northumbria Communities, Prayer for the Day, are also been great sources of enrichment!

The writings of many theologians also inspire and enthuse me including Pope Francis, Bishops Rowan Williams and Tom Wright. Having left my beloved Africa so young, all subject matter relating to beautiful continent and heritage remains an interest. In 2013, I attended the Queen's Foundation, Birmingham for my initial training after ten years as Lay Worker at Wesley's Chapel and the London North West Mission Circuits.

My other interests include Women's Hour, The Archers, Emmerdale & Coronation Street! I am mother to Matthew, currently in his second year at university reading Philosophy.

Finally, I pray that our passion to spread the 'gossip' (Gospel) will be a shared vision that celebrates our diversity, accepts and recognises the offering of our individual gifts. The Lord bless you all, and bless you kindly

Abe Konadu-Yiadom

Circuit/Church Forthcoming Events

Thurs. 28 th Sept	Circuit Meeting	7.45pm	Burnt Ash
Tues. 3 rd Oct.	LP & WL meeting	7.45pm	Wesley Hall
Sat. 14 th Oct	Safeguarding Training	10am-12 noon	Lewisham
Sat. 21 st Oct	Safeguarding Training	10am-12 noon	Forest Hill

Circuit Website: bhcpmethodist.org.uk

Deadline for information for next newsletter:

24th November 2017

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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A JOYFUL DAY OF WELCOME: Having not long ago said farewell to a long-serving Minister Pam Clews, we welcomed her replacement on Saturday 2nd September at Forest Hill. I hope everyone agrees that it was a joyful day for our Circuit as we welcomed not just one, but two new Ministers: one for Forest Hill and Wesley Hall – Rev Dee Yeadon, the other for Upper Norwood and Anerley - Rev. Abe Konadu-Yiadom. On behalf of the Stewards and congregation of Forest Hill I offer grateful thanks to everyone who took part in the service, the organising, providing wonderful cakes for the refreshments, helping others less able and clearing up afterwards. Let us not forget the musicians from the various churches who took turns in lending their talents to raise our songs of praise and worship. We are truly blessed. A collection for the Fund for the Support of Presbyters and Deacons was taken during the Service which amounted to **£260.93** and a cheque for this amount will be sent to them soon. **BRENDA ONATADE**

Rev. Dee Yeadon



If I were ...

- a film I'd be The Sound of Music – I was born into a large family with 8 children living on the moors near Huddersfield. My parents struggled to know how to solve a problem like Denise, but were proud when I took up a religious life. I do also like singing, play the guitar and walking these are a few of my favourite things.
- a TV programme I'd be Educating Yorkshire - although called to ministry aged 18 years and studying for 2 years at Cliff Bible College, I then worked in schools for 16 years as a Learning Mentor and Behavioural Support Worker and God blessed me in that work. I finally made it to ordination and come to you after serving as a minister in Bristol and then in South Wales.

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- a book I would be How to be a Bad Christian and a better human being - a book that, like me and my life, challenges traditional concepts of what it means to be a Christian or part of church. Many think a minister would not have tattoos, especially since the bible tells us not to put inks into our bodies. But then it also tells us not to wear mixed fibre clothes or eat certain seafood. I practice Godly Play and believe in the golden thread of God that is in everything and everyone. Being human is being godly.
- an animal I would be a bee – family are important and give sweetness to life. My swarm includes; 3 grown up children Ben, Kim and Holly, Kim's husband Iqgy and (after being widowed 4 years ago) my partner Steve who is living in Wales.

But also bees rest gently on flowers so the bee and flower get what they need without harm. I seek to rest gently on this world and all people so there is mutual blessings.

Dee Yeadon

Rev. Abe Konadu-Yiadom



May I begin with thanks once again for your welcome.

But first about me.... born and raised Ghana, I moved to England in the 1980s. I qualified initially as a Chef after completing my GCSEs and worked in the House of Commons but left her 'hot-stoves' (*my mother has never forgiven me!*) after two years to pursue a career in social care. Following this, I spent two decades in the UK voluntary and statutory sectors including Diabetes UK and the Citizens Advice Bureau.

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