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Are you depressed, confused or just
would like someone to talk to?

I am a qualified counsellor and supervisor offering a confidential service to adults, children and families.

CALL ME TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT ON

020 8244 0512 or 07956 351 511

Email:wendy.blenman@ntlworld.com

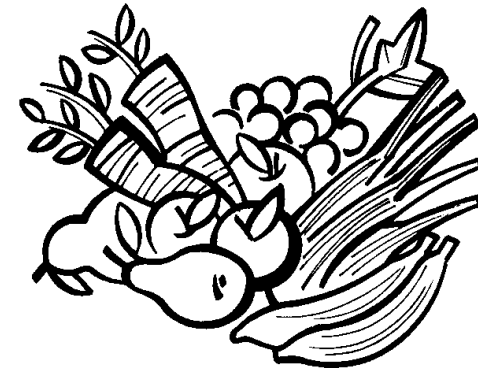
WENDY BLENMAN (Dip. Couns., MSc in therapeutic counselling)

ALL CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE NEXT
MAGAZINE SHOULD BE GIVEN TO MARIAN
YOUNG BY

SUNDAY 8TH NOVEMBER

Anerley Methodist Church, Oakfield Road, Anerley,
London SE20 8QA
Web site:www.anerleymethodist.org

**ANERLEY CENTRE
ECHO**



AUTUMN 2009

**The Newsletter of
ANERLEY METHODIST CHURCH**

USEFUL CONTACTS (as at 21.09.09) All prefix 020

Church (Minister is not available on this number)		8289 6771
Minister	Rev. Graham Cocking	8653 4902
Church Council Secretary	Emmanuel Anaman	7274 6294
Treasurer	Andrew Tredinnick	8658 2347
Property Steward	David Hynes	8289 3524
Property Bookings	David Hynes	8289 3524
Baptismal/Cradle Roll	Sandra Hynes	8289 3524
Junior Church Secretary	Janice Friend	8659 2905
Christian Action Group	Valerie & Andrew Tredinnick	8658 2347
Wednesday Club	Marian Young	8402 6618
Church Library	Valerie Tredinnick	8658 2347
Missions Secretary	Sandra Hynes	8289 3524
Junior Missionary Association	Dinah Anaman	7274 6294
NCH Action for Children	Valerie Tredinnick	8658 2347
Christian Aid		
Oxfam	Joan Loring	8659 1658
Penge Forum	Marian Young	8402 6618
Penge Community Pre-School (Church)		8289 6771
Jumoke Holiday Club	Audrey Bobb	8656 8684

EDITOR: Marian Young phone: 020 8402 6618 E-mail
m.young23@ntlworld.com



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Insure your home and contents with Methodist Insurance and we'll give **20% of the first year's premium (or minimum £20, whichever is the greater amount) to your church or your chosen charity.**

We make **generous grants** out of profits to the **Methodist Church** to help sustain its work and witness. In fact, over the last 130 years we have been able to provide grants totalling over **£10 million.**

For a leaflet about the **Methodist Insurance Church and Charity Donation Scheme** call on **0845 7697531** or email us at enquiries@micmail.com









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Penge Community Pre-School

Leader: Sarah Batchelor
 Deputy Leader: Sue Charlesworth
 SENCO: Teresa Ford

Anerley Methodist Church
 Oakfield Road
 Anerley
 SE20 8QA

Ofsted Inspected

Established 30 years

Learning through play

for children 3 to 5 years

£5 per Morning or Afternoon

9.20am to 11.50am & 12.30pm to 3pm

Government funding for 3 & 4 year olds

Vacancies

Tel. 020 8289 6771 or 01959 575 441

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2009

Volume 41 Number 3

LETTER FROM THE MINISTER

Dear Friends,

Wow. What a harvest of plums, damsons and apples this year; probably many other fruits and vegetables as well. It is just these are the fruits we have in our garden and we don't seem to have stopped picking them off the trees and sadly off the grass.

So what has happened? A very poor year last year to a bumper crop this year. They are in the same position so are in the same soil, so why the difference?

Many answers have been forthcoming like the amount of rain, the months the rain came in, the sunshine, yes we have had sunshine! The snow on the ground earlier in the year and the pruning that took place before fruiting began. Whatever it is all or any of the above, it is that the environment this year has been different in some way to last year.

Environment. We've heard so much about it in the last year with climate change, global warming and all that means but environment is so important. No or little rain, no or poor crops. No or little sun, no ripening of the crop. Yes, the environment in which we plant our crops, our fruit trees is so important as is the tending of that environment.

So we come to our lives. We are as much products of nature as the fruit trees and crops. Our lives are influenced by our environment.

Is your environment an environment with love or hate at its core? Is your environment an environment of warmth or cold?

Is your environment an environment of peace or hatred?

Is your environment one of hope or failure?

Is your environment one of trust or fear?

We all need the warmth of the sun in our lives.

We all need laughter surrounding us.

We all need a positive vision, route map for our lives.

Yet our environment often does not seem to provide what we need.

So what do we have to do.

We need to take things in hand.

Just in the same way individuals and countries are attacking the causes of global warming by seeking to change the way we affect our environment so we in our spiritual lives need to change our ways.

Replace that hate with love.

Replace that cold with warmth.

Replace that hatred with peace.

Replace that failure with hope.

Replace that fear with trust.

It's too hard, too difficult I hear you say, and it is on your own.

So change your environment this harvest time. Put Jesus Christ and all that he can do for you at the centre of your life. Give your life a chance to fulfil itself with a bumper harvest so that not only you but all those around you as well can be fed.

Have a bumper harvest in all its aspects.

God bless.

Graham

OUTREACH TO THE HOMELESS

Outreach to the Homeless are a local voluntary group who supply items of clothing and essential toiletries to local homeless people and those sleeping on the streets of London. In preparation for the coming winter they find that their stocks are low and have asked whether any of our congregation have surplus items they wish to dispose of.

They need men's clothing and useful items as listed below:-

T shirts jeans shoes trainers

Hankies scarves gloves hats

Underwear holdalls coats flannels

Towels soap disposable razors plasters

Toilet bags Blankets empty ice cream tubs

If you wish to donate any items, please give them to me and I will pass them on to the organisers. There is also a list on the notice board in the entrance hall, to remind you of what is needed.

Marian

ANSWERS TO HARVEST PUZZLE

1.Wine; 2.Milk & honey; 3. Fig; 4.Raisin-cakes; 5.Loaves of bread; 6.Grape, olive; 7.Pomegranate; 8. Egg; 9.Butter; 10. Barley; 11.Fish; 12.Flour; 13.Oil & Meal; 14. Beans & lentils; 15. Salt.

Thank You

Methodist Homes Sunday Envelope Collection 2009.

£300 was collected by the four churches in the circuit

This money will help enormously in enhancing the
services provided by MHA.

Thank you on behalf of MHA, for your generous support.

Sandra Clifton

MHA Circuit Representative

MHA working to improve the quality of life for older people,
inspired by Christian concern.

A Prayer

We remember with thankfulness

Our elderly friends and relatives

And celebrate the way their lives

Enrich our community.

We give thanks for the example of their faith

And ask that our love for one another be increased

Across the age groups.

ROUND THE FAMILY

Congratulations to Richard Anaman who had graduated with a 2:1 degree in Sound Technology and Digital Music, to Vanessa Anaman who obtained 10 GCSEs, and Emma Oppong who obtained 4 A levels, both girls obtaining high grades.

The Autumn is a time of change for many people and we send our best wishes to Erik Waterhouse, who is going to Portsmouth University to study Computer Games Design, and to Emma Oppong, who will be going to Warwick University to study Mathematics, Operational Research, Statistics and Economics.

We also send our best wishes to Josie Oppong who is moving to Ghana in October to work for the Department for International Development.

Marian

Sharing stories

This year's Methodist school of Fellowship was called "Sharing stories" and the president this year was Inderjit Boghal, a former president of the Methodist Conference and a leading theologian and minister in the Methodist Church.

The Bible studies were led by Judith Rossall, the director of the learning and development team of the Southern Theological Education and Training Scheme in Salisbury.

This year the school attracted young and old, with one third of the school being under the age of twenty. Throughout the week we shared with others our stories of how we came to faith. It was very interesting hearing other Christians' stories

having time to talk to each other about our interests and our passion in life. I found this type of worshipping very informal but interesting, as it provides a meeting point for church members to talk about issues and can be seen as a type of outreach event. The intention of café' worship is to be a means of enabling Christians to witness to others.

We had an evening of entertainment from the psalm drummers who are a network of Christian drummers who have grown in the last ten years; they have played at Greenbelt and the BBC Songs of Praise. Young and old were given a drum and we were shown how to play the drum. The psalm drummers believe that drumming is about passion, and as a drummer it is their job as spiritual drummers to bring life to the simplest grooves and beats, almost as if they were playing the heartbeat of God. Whilst playing my drum, I thought of all the injustice in our world; I was striking my drum for justice and joy.

We also had a speaker from the Methodist Art Collection. I was surprised to learn that the Methodist Church had an art collection. The speaker said that through art people could look and focus on episodes in the life of Christ. We looked at lovely paintings such as Christ's entry into Jerusalem painted by Norman Adams and the cross over the city which I particularly enjoyed: the painting is about traffic in the city and through the traffic you can see the cross in the centre. Also on display was the Dalit Madonna painted by Jyoti Sahi in 1994. What the speaker said about it painting that it could be suitable for a Church to display on Mothering Sunday or to help teenage mothers.

A workshop that I attended was on lay witnessing. Two members of the movement came along to talk about it. Their aim is to strengthen churches and to centre the Church on Christ.

was in his heart. (6, Psalm 55:2 1)

10 There is a lad here who has five _____ loaves and two fish; but what are they among so many? (6, John 6:9)

11 When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire there, with _____ lying on it, and bread. (4, John 21:9)

12 The kingdom of heaven is like leaven which a woman took and hid in three measures of _____, till it was all leavened. (5, Matt 13:33)

13 A widow made Elijah a cake of _____ and _____ (3&4, I Kings 17:12-13)

14 And you, take wheat and barley _____ and _____, millet and spelt, and put them into a single vessel, and make bread of them. (5&7, Ezek4:9)

15 You shall present them before the LORD, and the priests shall sprinkle _____ upon them and offer them up as a burnt offering to the LORD. (4, Ezek 43:24)

Answers on page13

BIBLE STUDY

The next series of Bible Studies are entitled John's Letters—Discovering Genuine Christianity and deal with 1, 2 and 3 John. There are 12 Studies in the series. The first 6 will take place on six Mondays between 26th October and 30th November 2009 at 8pm (for details see Dates for Your Diary) and the second set of six will take place in April and May next year. For further details please see Valerie Tredinnick.

HARVEST PUZZLE

As it is the Harvest Festival season, here is a puzzle based on fruits and other foodstuffs mentioned in the Bible. There are 20 altogether; some might be obvious, others may come as a surprise and most you could find on the shelves in your local supermarket!! The number of letters in each word is given along with the Bible reference. See how many you can get without looking up the references! (New Revised Standard Version of the Bible has been used).

- 1 At a wedding the mother of Jesus said to him, “they have no _____” (4, John 2:3)
- 2 Canaan—a land flowing with _____ and _____ (4&5, Exo3:17)
- 3 Fruitless tree which Jesus rebuked? _____ (3, Matt 29:19)
- 4 Mourn, utterly stricken, for the _____ - _____ of Kir-hareseth (6-5, Isa 16:7)
- 5 Command these stones to become _____ of _____ (6,5 Matt 4:3)
- 6 He will shake off his unripe _____ like the vine and cast off his blossom like the _____ tree (5,5 Job 15:33)
- 7 Do the vine, the fig tree, the _____, and the olive tree still yield nothing? From this day on I will bless you.” (11, Hag 2:19)
- 8 Or if he asks for an _____, will give him a scorpion? (3, Luke 11:12)
- 9 His speech was smoother than _____, yet war

The movement holds weekends in Churches where they put on a special weekend designed for that particular church to help them to explore the centrality of Christ in the lives of those who worship at the Church. They believe that “living in God’s love” will help the Church to grow. They have received excellent feedback from their weekends which are free, but Churches are invited to send a donation to the movement for the weekend.

The Bible studies with Judith were very informative and looked at Job’s story, which many Christians are not that familiar with. In the story of Job, Job loses everything, but not his faith. I see that Job is about my life, everyone’s life, where things happen that are good and things that happen that are bad. From reading Job there is a feeling that through true faithfulness to God we can overcome our problems and situations; it also taught me to be sympathetic to those in misfortune.

During our Bible studies we were asked to share our favourite Bible story, I couldn’t choose one. People were saying, Genesis, Job and Jonah. I said I felt that I liked Genesis which tells us how we were made, the Passover in Egypt that helps to remind me that God protected the Hebrews from Judgment, the story of Job that strengthens me in times of suffering and trials but basically with so many Bible stories, I could not choose. I love all sixty six books.

On the last night we had an evening service where the children performed a dance from the award-winning “Hairspray” musical and we celebrated the Lord’s Supper down by the riverside. In his final speech of the week, Inderjit Boghal said there is more than one way to enter the Kingdom of Heaven – what are your views on this?

Martha Agyei

TALENTS FESTIVAL

The next Methodist Talents Festival will take place on Saturday 6th March 2009 at Shirley Methodist Church.

However, NOW is the time to think about which classes you would like to enter. There are a variety of classes to suit everyone, from "live" classes such as singing, Bible reading or playing an instrument, to handicrafts and photography. This year, by popular demand, cookery classes are again included. No one is too young or too old to enter!

A copy of the syllabus is on the notice board, together with a list on which you can enter your name and the classes you wish to enter. There are a few spare copies of the syllabus at the back of the Church if you want to take one away and think about what you can do.

Ideally I would like names before Christmas but certainly NO LATER THAN Sunday 3rd January 2009. I shall need finished handicraft entries by Sunday 17th January 2009, so you have 3 months to finish that knitted scarf!

Marian

INTERNATIONAL BIBLE READING ASSOCIATION

Annual volumes of day-by-day Bible Reading Notes in the popular page-a-day layout are available for 2010 as follows:

Light for our Path

This is the more contemplative series of notes for use perhaps in a daily personal prayer time. Since it prints the key verse of the biblical text, *Light for our Path* can be used with no Bible to hand, say on the journey to work. Writers from all over the world help you to meditate on the Word of God and

see its relevance in your own life. Each week there are questions for group discussion and personal thought. Every day there is a short prayer in addition to the commentary.

Words for Today 2009

This volume is intended to provoke and stimulate the reader. It tests the reading of the Bible with the many challenges of modern life. What is God saying to guide us in what we have to do today? It presents writers from many backgrounds and traditions, challenging readers to act in the light of the readings. Each week there are points raised for reflection and for action.

If you would like to place an order please see Marian Young. Prices for either book are £8.50 each, with a 10% reduction if we order a total of more than 6 copies. Light for our Path is available in Large Print for £12 (no reduction) and both books are available on cassette.

THE NEW NEIGHBOUR PROJECT

This is a church-based project that is currently running in the Penge area to support families who have recently arrived in this country. Their aim is to care for and support people as they face the many challenges associated with being forced to leave their former countries and having to adapt to a totally new culture and way of life.

The Project welcomed two new families into the local area in the Spring and they are looking for volunteers to give an hour or two on a regular basis to help the families with particular skills, such as helping with IT work, providing support with the children's homework or helping to undertake repairs/DIY work in their new homes. For further information about the Project, or volunteering, contact Chris Tolley, Project Worker. Mobile: 07545 131193; email: chris.newneighbourpenge@yahoo.co.uk