

UNITY OF SELF COUNSELLING SERVICE

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

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

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

SUNDAY 13TH JANUARY

Anerley Methodist Church, Oakfield Road, Anerley,
London SE20 8QA

**ANERLEY CENTRE
ECHO**



CHRISTMAS 2007

The Newsletter of

ANERLEY METHODIST CHURCH

USEFUL CONTACTS (as at 01.06.07) All prefix 020

Church		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		
Scout Group Secretary	Valerie Tredinnick	8658 2347
Group Scout Leader		
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

METHODIST

METHODIST INSURANCE Crystal clear insurance

Protect your home and contents with us and raise money for your church or charity



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









Registered no. 6369 England. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority, members of the Association of British Insurers, the Financial Services Compensation Scheme and the Financial Ombudsman Service. MR6434 08/05



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

December 2007/January 2008

Volume 39 Number 4

FROM THE MINISTER



Dear Friends,

Happy Christmas! Yes it's nearly that time again.

Can't you feel it? Austria has got its earliest snow for years. And here? Well the north wind has certainly started to blow!

Can't you see it? The shops decked out tempting you to buy the trinkets for the trees, purchase the odd gift. The adverts on the television, the posters advertising another performance of 'Messiah', the bank balance looking bleaker.

Yes, Christmas is near.

How are you feeling about it? Is it trepidation, is it fear, are the financial worries filling your mind? Is there the thought of all the chores, of the family visiting and all that means, of the loneliness as you feel alone in the world at a time when so many seem to be enjoying themselves? What did I give him last year or the year before for that matter, how can I make it different, make it better?

Questions, questions, questions and very few answers. What are we to do?

Perhaps remember. Remember the questions Mary and Joseph had. Pregnant, how come, it's not possible, what will the family say? Hadn't we better get married? How are we going to feed another mouth? Oh no the census, it's going to happen right in the middle of it. Where are we going to live?

They didn't know how it was going to work out. Nor did they know the immediate implications of the chase, the exile, the slaughter. But they trusted. They trusted because God was at the heart of it. They trusted because it was in God's hands.



That didn't mean it would be easy. That didn't mean the money, the housing, the ridicule would miraculously disappear. No, there would still be the struggle, still the hard times but there would also be something else, new life, a baby. New hopes, new horizons, a new way.

Where are we as we think of new hopes, new horizons, a new way? As we think of joy making a chink in that sorrow; as we think of love overcoming that hatred; as we think of peace in a time of war.

Share the trust of Joseph and Mary. Take the expectation, the new hopes, the joy, the love of Christmas and let it fill your hearts. Take Jesus into your hearts and trust his way and may this Christmas be a very blessed one.

Happy Christmas,

May God's blessing be with us all.

Graham Cocking

THANKYOU



OXFAM

Joan Loring, our Pledged Giving collector, has received the following letter from Oxfam:

"Dear Miss Loring

Thank you very much for your Pledged Giving donation to Oxfam of £90.95p...

"Oxfam Unwrapped, Oxfam's Alternative gift catalogue, is now back with a new collection of gifts to solve all your present buying problems. It's bigger than ever and packed full of perfect presents for just about everyone and every occasion. There are over 50 gifts to choose from, including mosquito nets, radios and even toilets!

"Oxfam Unwrapped has been helping to raise funds for Oxfam since 2004 and has gone from strength to strength every year and we are sure that this year will be even more successful than ever.

"Many Oxfam Unwrapped gifts will be available in your local Oxfam shop or you can call 0870 410 5030 to order over the telephone. If you would like to be sent an Oxfam Unwrapped catalogue to see the gifts and order by post please let me know and I will send you one.

"If you have any questions about Oxfam Unwrapped, your donation, or about any aspect of Oxfam please contact me on 0870 333 2700—I will be happy to help.

"Thanks again for your gift. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

"With best wishes

"Ken Smith

"Supporter Relations"

CHRISTIAN AID 2007

The Area Organiser of the 2007 Christian Aid Week, Chris Doran, has supplied the following details of the amounts collected by the various churches:-

		£
Anerley Methodist	House to House	206.69
Avenue Baptist	House to House	336.05
Holy Trinity	House to House	793.47
	Poverty Lunch	359.00
Penge Baptist	Bring and Buy	200.00
Penge Congregational		
	House to House	706.83
	Various other	140.10
St. Michael's	Donation	13.00
Other Donations		<u>10.00</u>
Christian Aid Week total		<u>2765.14</u>
Tax reclaimable from Gift Aid		<u>351.28</u>
2007 Total		3116.42

We are now without a Christian Aid Week collection organizer in our Church, as Joan Loring has now stepped down following many years' service. If you are able to take on this role, please speak to Joan, who will tell you what is involved.

ANSWERS TO AUNTIE MAY

1. Seven swans a-swimming. 2. The holly. 3. Flesh, wine, pine logs. 4. Certain poor shepherds. 5. Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer. 6. In royal David's city. 7. "Glory to the newborn king". 8. (We) Three kings. 9. Three ships. 10. A one-horse open sleigh.

ROUND THE FAMILY

Please remember in your prayers Joan Loring, who has been unwell over the last few weeks. On a brighter note Andrew Tredinnick is now receiving physiotherapy for his dislocated shoulder and is noticing an improvement.

We were pleased to hear that the Rev. Andrew Goodhead, previous Minister of this church, has been awarded his Doctorate, and we congratulate him on becoming a Reverend Doctor!

Congratulations also to Emma Oppong, who received an Achievement Award and to Vanessa Anaman, who received a Form Prize, at their respective school Speech Days.

Belated congratulations to Richard Anaman, who was 21 on 18th November, and best wishes to Erik Waterhouse, who will be 18 on 25th January.

Everyone connected with the production of the Magazine joins me in wishing you all a happy and peaceful Christmas

Marian

FIREWORK PARTY

The 2nd of November, a fine dry night, saw 16 people assembled in the back garden of Valerie and Andrew's home to watch what has been a much looked-forward-to event, the annual Firework Party. This year Andrew had purchased some quite unusual fireworks, which were much appreciated. After the fireworks we went indoors for a delicious supper and a time of fellowship. Well done, Valerie and Andrew!

Joan

Kumasi School Library Appeal

We are now approaching the end of the appeal and should be grateful if the money from the remaining fund-raising events, together with any further donations, could be paid in by the middle of January.

Andrew has undertaken his second Green Chain Walk, and is very grateful to everyone who sponsored him. He hopes to write a piece describing the walk (from his home to Erith) for the next edition of the magazine.

By the end of November we will have raised over £2,300, but see the poster in the entrance hall for the latest figure. Is there any chance of reaching £2½ K?

A.T

INTROIT for the next 4 months

O Breath of Life, come sweeping through us,
Revive Thy Church with life and pow'r.

O Breath of Life, come cleanse, renew us,
And fit Thy Church to meet this hour.

O Breath of Love, come breathe within us,
Renewing thought and will and heart:
Come, love of Christ, afresh to win us,
Revive Thy church in every part.

Elizabeth Porter Head (1850—1936)

Songs of Fellowship no.407

CCL Licence no.221943

BENEVOLENT FUND OFFERINGS 2007-8

The offerings taken at the Communion Services usually go into the Church's Benevolent Fund. However, during the months shown below, the offerings will go to the charities shown.

Nov – Bromley Talking Newspaper (local)

Feb- Royal National Institute for the Deaf (National)

June – Practical Action (formerly Intermediate Technology (International)

Aug – Methodist Relief and Development Fund (Methodist)

#####

METHODIST TALENTS FESTIVAL

I have placed a copy of the syllabus for the Festival on the notice board in the entrance hall. If you want to enter any classes, please let me know by Sunday 8th January. This Festival is not just for the children! Anyone can enter – so have a look through the syllabus and see what you would like to do.

Marian



Through regular and widespread use of this live and friendly forum, where church and non-church members alike are encouraged to 'pen' their views, we at last have a limitless vehicle to debate how faith could be, or perhaps should be, affecting our social responsibilities in the twenty-first century.

© Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

A CHRISTMAS QUIZ BY Auntie May

See if you can answer these questions, based on well known Christmas songs and carols.

1. What did my true love give me on the seventh day of Christmas?
2. What "bears a blossom as white as the lily flow'r"?
3. What did King Wenceslas ask his page to bring him?
4. "The first nowell the angel did say was to..." who?
5. Which animal had a very shiny nose?
6. Where "stood a lowly cattle shed"?
7. What do the herald angels sing?
8. Who travelled over "field and fountain, moor and mountain"
9. What did I see sailing by on Christmas Day?
10. "Dashing through the snow" in what?

(Answers on page 12)

Christmas Post Boxes

These will be available in the entrance hall from Sunday 2nd December. The **Local Box** is for cards to members and friends who attend church and live locally. To assist sorting and delivery, please write both Christian and surname on the envelope, together with the address if known. **The cards in this box will be distributed following morning service on Sunday 23rd December.**

Please only put in the **Country Box** cards for people listed on the outside. **The final day for posting in this box is Sunday 16th December.**

If you use the boxes we do ask for a donation to St. Christopher's Hospice. This can be put in the plate beside the boxes or handed to Andrew. Last year we raised £74.60. Hopefully we will beat that figure this time.

Carolling for the National Children's Home

This year we shall be carolling singing on **Monday 17th and Wednesday 19th December**. Please meet at the Church at 7.20pm, so that we can leave promptly at 7.30pm.

If you haven't been before do give it a try. Carol sheets and some lanterns are provided. Even if you can't since sing still come. As we need people to take turns with the collecting tins. Wrap up well as we sing whatever the weather.

We finish with seasonal refreshments!

A signing-up list will be on the table at the back of the Church from Sunday 2nd December.

Andrew T.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 16th December Carol Service 6.30pm led by the
Rev. Graham Cocking

Sunday 23rd December Family Carol and Gift Service 11am
Led by Rev. Graham Cocking
Gifts will be given to Fegan's Child
and Family Care.

Monday 24th December Christmas Eve Communion 9.15pm

Tuesday 25th December Christmas Day All Age Worship
9.15am Bring a gift to show us!



Interface: where Christianity meets culture

Imagine a place where young and old, ordained and lay, all faiths and none, can come together and debate the news of the day in a friendly anonymous setting. Where issues such as climate change, gay marriage and the 'Silver Ring' case can be discussed from a range of theological perspectives, and questions and queries on these 'hot topics' raised and addressed by the community.

Thanks to the ever expanding accessibility of the internet, such a place exists, and can be found at the click of a mouse at www.theinterface.org.uk

The **Interface** is a Methodist-run website, which explores contemporary issues and news stories from a faith-based perspective. Hot topics in areas such as science, the arts, entertainment, history, politics and religion are addressed by voluntary experts through mini-articles, and then commented upon by hundreds of visitors to the site (over 500 to date).

A recent topic, which has caused a stir among **Interface** users, is the opening of the Creation Museum in Kentucky in the USA. A 400-word article generated over 180 comments—both for and against the principles of the museum!

The website is an innovative way to reach young adults inside and outside the Church. It engages the 'computer generation' more directly and more relevantly than many other forms of Christian dialogue. That's not to say today's 'silver surfers' aren't welcome to the forum: users of all ages, denominations and life-experiences are encouraged to sign up and join the debate. The **Interface** website is a medium through which the Methodist Church is combating the misconception perpetuated by the media that Christians are unwilling to address contemporary, everyday and sometimes controversial issues.