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

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YOUNG BY

SUNDAY 13TH JANUARY

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

**ANERLEY CENTRE
ECHO**



CHRISTMAS 2008

The Newsletter of

ANERLEY METHODIST CHURCH

USEFUL CONTACTS (as at 21.07.08) 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 | | |
| 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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Penge Community Pre-School

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

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Anerley
SE20 8QA

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DECEMBER 2008/JANUARY 2009

Volume 40 Number 4

FROM THE MINISTER

Dear Friends,



Yes it's almost here. Christmas!

How are you feeling? It has been tough lately. The banks, the financial markets, mortgages, employment, need I go on? Now there is the expense of Christmas. The children still are bombarded with ideas for presents, we all need to eat and at this time of year we want it to be special. How will we cope? How can we cope? What will we do with the debts as we go into a new year? A new year with so many questions for each of us, a new year with so many unanswered questions. It's going to be tough.

Yes it's not going to be easy. However let us not concentrate on ourselves. What about the families who are mourning at this time after the carnage of Mumbai? Also we remember those suffering in Zimbabwe from cholera, 90% unemployment and no food in the shops. Then there are those who have lost so much financially as markets have plummeted. There are those experiencing difficulties of this nature for the first time and those to whom this is just another hurdle to navigate.

Let us also remember all who are homeless or have the fear being homeless as repossessions soar and those who are out in the cold on these bitter nights. Then there are those parted from loved ones, working away, in the forces and in prison or those who this year find themselves on their own for the first time through family break-up or death of a loved one.

Let us not forget either those refugees in many countries of the world who like Mary, Joseph and Jesus have had to flee their homes, neighbourhoods and countries.

As we see the tinsel, hear the laughter, decorate the house, put lights on the tree, open the presents, eat the food, let us remember how it really began. No room at the Inn; a cold stable; a flight to avoid death.



Let us remind ourselves and those in need that Jesus goes before us. He has had the struggles to go through, is mindful of the fear and greed of others who would kill him to preserve their own existence and at times had nowhere to lay his head.

Yet He is still there to love us, to care for us, to take our burdens on His shoulders, to bring us peace.

Let us share that with all in need and where we can, let us go out this Christmas and do what Jesus did. Let us be among the hungry, the cold, the dispossessed bringing light and hope and peace. Let us remember 'forasmuch as you have done it unto one of the least of my brethren you have done it unto me', and those of us who cannot be supporting others physically, let us hold them in our prayers.

Have a meaningful Christmas.

May God richly bless you.

Graham

But why should Tate's words have attracted so many tunes? "One reason is that they are the right metre to fit lots of tunes," says Gordon Ashman, administrator of the West Galley Music Association, which researches and performs music associated with the kind of church bands described by Thomas Hardy in *Under The Greenwood Tree*. "The words are not earth-shattering but there is a rightness and fittingness about them—and there is plenty of scope for musical repetition."

But there is probably more to it than that. Rollo Woods, whose collection of WSWTFBN tunes is now pushing 60, says, "Carols were not sung in churches because the conservative Church of England would not allow texts which were not scriptural." The words of WSWTFBN have the great advantage on being based on holy writ—chapter two of St. Luke's Gospel—so there was no objection to them being sung in services.

Down in the West Country, Jacqueline and Bob Patten estimate there are at least 100 WSWTFBN tunes in Devon, Cornwall and Somerset...Jacqueline says, "If I have to name a favourite, it would have to be Old Foster." That's a Sheffield tune written by a popular composer who earned a living as a coroner. It is still sung in and around the city, where a tradition of singing carols in pubs thrives...To sing (carols) ...in a Sheffield pub on Christmas Eve is an emotional and musical experience beyond compare.

David Ward

ANSWERS TO AUNTIE MAY

1. Five gold rings. 2. Away in a manger 3. Nothing you dismay. 4. The holly. 5. That glorious song of old. 6. Salute the happy morn. 7. On the feast of Stephen. 8. The angel of the Lord. 9. Boughs of holly. 10. In the bleak mid-winter.

(The following is an extract from an article which appeared in the Guardian newspaper some years ago)

While shepherds watched on Ilkley Moor

Would you mind singing me a snatch of While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks By Night? I can't seem to remember the tune. You know the tune—it's familiar from a thousand carol services.

The funny thing is that while I can't sing you that tune, I can do you a dozen others. Which isn't saying much: according to one estimate, WSWTFBN has been set to more than 100 tunes. Some are familiar, like Crimond and Amazing Grace. Others are less well-known but are much loved in places where they are still sung. There's Old Foster and Underbank, Pentonville and Shaw Lane, Lyngham and Liverpool. And many more. The tune you know and I've forgotten (because I've been singing some of the others) is Winchester Old—and it's old, appearing first in Thomas East's Psalter of 1592. The words, by the feeble poet laureate Nahum Tate, appeared about 1700. But words and music were not married until the publication of Hymns Ancient and Modern in 1863. A&M's compilers have much to answer for: they suppressed many fine tunes, most of which refused to die but went underground instead.

"I don't think anyone sang WSWTFBN to Winchester Old before 1853," says Dr. Ian Russell, editor of the Folk Song Journal and an authority on the Sheffield pub carol tradition. "The most popular tune used in Yorkshire before 1890 was Cranbrook." That tune was used for the familiar words at a service in Westminster Abbey as late as 1928; which must have sounded interesting, for Cranbrook is more usually associated today with On Ilkley Moor Baht 'At. But Cranbrook is not a Yorkshire tune: it was written by Thomas Clark (1702—1751), a shoemaker from Canterbury.

ROUND THE FAMILY

Please remember in your prayers Thomas Tchine, whose father died in the Cote d'Ivoire at the end of October. Please also remember Nicky Jaffray who is awaiting the start of a further course of chemotherapy, and Velda Weekes, who at the time of writing is in hospital.

Several of our congregation have been struck down by the nasty cold virus which has been doing the rounds and which seems to take a long time to get rid of. Get well soon!

On November 16th Emma Oppong was received into membership of the Methodist Church by confirmation and Lorraine Wilson was received by transfer from the Roman Catholic Church at a very happy and well-attended service. Emma has another special day on 21st December when she will celebrate her 18th birthday, and we send her our best wishes and congratulations.

We were happy to welcome into our Church family Nana Amoako Agyemang Arthur, the son of Nathaniel and Nana Arthur, who was baptised on 10th August. (This event was somehow missed from our last magazine, so I am making belated amends now!)

Congratulations to Richard Hynes, who, by the time you read this, will have travelled to Belfast to be presented with a Police Commendation in recognition of his work in combating drug and knife crime in Southwark.

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

Marian

INTROIT for the next 4 months

Be still and know that I am God,
 Be still and know that I am God,
 Be still and know that I am God,

In Thee O Lord I put my trust,
 In Thee O Lord I put my trust,
 In Thee O Lord I put my trust,

Author unknown
 Songs of Fellowship no. 41
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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 4th 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. There are some new classes this year, including Card Making.

Marian

FIREWORK PARTY

Thanks to Valerie and Andrew for once again hosting the annual Firework Party. A good mix of people enjoyed a splendid evening of fellowship, fireworks and food. Well done.

Joan

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 fifth day of Christmas?
2. Where was it that little Lord Jesus “laid down his sweet head”?
3. “God rest ye merry, gentlemen, let...” What?
4. What “bears a berry as red as any blood?”
5. What came upon the midnight clear?
6. “Christians awake...” and do what?
7. When did King Wenceslas look outside?
8. “While shepherds watched their flocks by night...” who came down?
9. “Deck the hall with...” what?
10. “Frosty wind made moan...” when?

(Answers on page 17)

JMA ENVELOPES

The sum raised in the JMA envelopes was £88.90. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

food. So we started to save them, improving their conditions and the food.

“The large numbers of places are in Yunnan and Sichuan provinces, practically abandoned to themselves, with the government food of 60 dollars per month. Slowly we changed the conditions with new houses, more food, 12 dollars per month, and the most important thing I discovered was that the Sisters wanted to live with the lepers. Now we have to take care of the lepers and the Sisters. This is the real miracle...

“Once again my profound gratitude to you for your generous loving help...

“Yours sincerely in Christ,

“Father Luis Ruis, S. J.

BENEVOLENT FUND OFFERINGS 2008-9

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 – St. Christopher's Hospice (local)

Feb- Parkinson's Disease Society (National)

June – Bible Lands (International)

Aug – Galloway's Society for the Blind (Methodist)

Christmas Post Boxes

The two boxes will be available in the entrance hall from Sunday 30th November. Greetings cards for our own members and friends who attend services at the Church can be placed in the **Local Box**. To ensure that cards are delivered to the correct person please write both the Christian and surname clearly on the envelope. These items will be distributed following the Carol and Gift service on Sunday morning **21st December**.

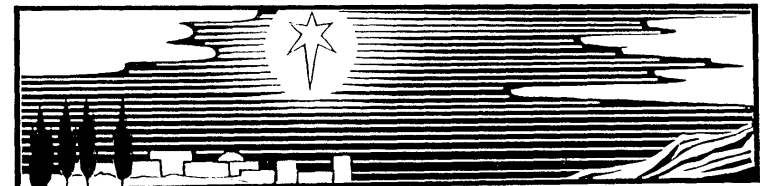
Only put in the **Country Box** cards for the following people:

| | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Rose Bateman | Philip and Laurel Luscombe |
| Sandra Clifton | Andrew and Helen Maguire |
| Dave & Pat Dent | Adam McKop |
| Abraham Doku | Chris & Deirdre Metcalfe |
| Andrew Goodhead | Brenda Pooley |
| Gerald Hardy | Shirley Quintrell |
| Anne & Eddie Jackson | Judy & Alan Turner-Smith |
| George & Mollie Lovell | |

This box will be removed after morning service on Sunday **14th December**.

We do ask that everyone who uses the boxes to make a donation in lieu of the postage saved. As usual this money will go to St. Christopher's Hospice.

Andrew T.



Carol Singing

NCH has changed its name to **Action for Children**, and we have been promised new collecting boxes. It would be lovely to have some new voices as well this year! We will be singing on Wednesday 17th and Monday 22nd December. If you intend coming please sign the list on the table at the back of the church. We meet at 7.20pm in order to leave the church at 7.30pm prompt.

Some lanterns are provided but you may wish to bring a torch. Wear gloves and wrap up well as we sing whatever the weather. Afterwards we enjoy seasonal refreshments at a friend's house.

If you have not been before or have missed the last year or two, do join us this time. Don't worry if you haven't got a singing voice, as it is just as important to have volunteers to take turns with the collecting boxes. It can be a fun evening as together we raise money for a good cause.

Andrew T.



CASA RICCI SOCIAL SERVICES

Below are extracts from a recent letter from Father Ruiz, whose work we support via "Joan's Tin".

"On the 21st of September I will start my 96 years of age with the strength of a young man. It is a special blessing of God...From time to time I go to China to see our work with the lepers and the Aids service for children. Of course, I do not go for so many days, two or three days ONLY. Day by day I have to thank God for this special blessing and the thousands of friends who pray for me and help so generously his work...

"I came to Macau from China the 1st of November 1951. It was a very poor Macau, full of refugees, without language, work and money. Thousands came swimming from China. The police sent to me for clothing, food, shelter for 15 days, until China declared that Macau was China. Therefore no more refugees.

"Then I started to look after the old people without family in the old centre of refugees. Slowly we created the Betania Home for old men and Santa Maria Home for women and found a corner for mental boys, St. Luis Centre. Many friends helped us to complete the work. Evening time I kept busy teaching Catholicism, 5,000 were baptised. In 1980 I had the opportunity to go back to China, helping the old priest of Kong-Mun who introduced me to the lepers in Tai-Kam first. Slowly I visited the lepers' centres in Guandong province. Their conditions were very poor, without housing, no water, electricity and very poor food, slowly helped a lot of them, until one day told me that the conditions in central China were really horrible. I went to see the places in Yunnan province. The lepers were in the mountains, practically no roads, no water, electricity, telephone and practically no

Leaving at 11.35am I retraced the route of my first walk (Woolwich to Crystal Palace—described in a previous edition of the magazine) as far as Beckenham Place Park, where I had a lunch stop at 12.50pm (about 9½ miles). I left at 13.10pm to follow the Green Chain branch via Sundridge as far as Elmstead Woods, described in my second walk (Beckenham to Erith—described earlier this year in the magazine). On the way I passed the nursing home in Park Avenue where Adam is now living.

At Elmstead Woods I took the branch for Chislehurst and had another short stop at 14.25pm sitting on a 'Green Chain Resting Place' seat—one of a number thoughtfully provided throughout the network of Green Chain paths. Whilst imbibing a final cup of coffee from my flask, 'Jack', a nondescript mongrel who wanted to make friends, joined me! Ten minutes later I was on my way again, scuffing up the fallen leaves in the wood. The final open space was Walden Recreation Ground, where looking back over my shoulder I caught a glimpse of the Canary Wharf buildings. Then into Chislehurst High Street, past the parish church with its tower separate from the nave, and to the end of the walk at Prickend Pond besides the Queen's Head Pub at 15.10pm (about 14½ miles).

It only remained for me to catch the 162 bus back to the Chinese Garage, and walk the rest of the way home across the Harvington Estate.

My thanks to everyone who sponsored this walk and helped raise about £150 for CAGs funds.

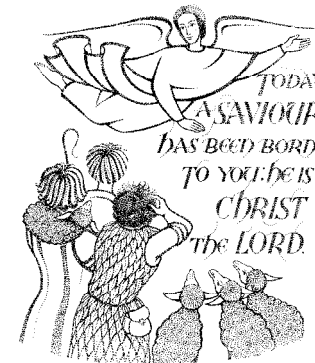
Andrew T.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 21st December Family Carol and Gift Service 11am
Led by Valerie Tredinnick
Gifts will be given to Fegan's Child and Family Care.

Wednesday 24th December Christmas Eve Communion
9.15pm

Thursday 25th December Christmas Day All Age Worship



PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Dear Lord, I have not gossiped, lost my temper, been greedy, grumpy, selfish or self-indulgent. I have not whined, complained, cursed or eaten chocolate. I have charged nothing on my credit card. But I will be getting out of bed in a minute, and I think that I really will need your help then. AMEN

(This was sent to me by my friend Chrissie in Canada, from her Church magazine - Marian)

SOUTHWARK GREEN CHAIN LAUNCH

As part of this year's Green Chain walking festival, a new section of the Green Chain, from Nunhead Cemetery to Crystal Palace Park, was opened on 16th September. Valerie and I went along and were surprised to find upwards of 70 other people of all ages, shapes, sizes and fitness eagerly awaiting the start of the conducted walk. Before setting off we were each presented with a 'Green Chain' cap, and a pedometer to measure not just the miles walked but calories used as well! Two Southwark councillors performed the opening ceremony and, after a small speech, the ribbon was cut, a group photograph taken, and then we were on our way. A description of the route follows in the account of my recent sponsored walk from Nunhead to Chislehurst.

Green Chain—Nunhead to Chislehurst (about 14½ miles)

I waited until the weather was set fair, and then set off to do the walk on Saturday 15th November. Leaving Nunhead station at 9.25am I made my way to the start at the nearby cemetery, which retains the imposing shell of the Anglican chapel, and continued through what has become an attractive wildlife area. Next came One Tree Hill, which despite the name is an attractive wood. The stiff climb to the top is rewarded with excellent views of central London, and St. Paul's Cathedral can be clearly seen. Near the summit is an oak tree protected by railings. A commemorative plaque states that this replaces an earlier tree, under which Queen Elizabeth is said to have rested on May Day 1602. Ever since it has been known as "The Oak of Honor" - and has given its name to the surrounding locality.

There followed some pavement walking before I reached Horniman Gardens (10.20am) which also offers good views, this time across a swathe of south London.

After crossing the London Road (South Circular), the route joins a footpath into Sydenham Hill Wood to reach Cox's Walk, where the way crosses an elegant cantilever bridge over the abandoned railway track from Nunhead to Crystal Palace (High Level) station. An information board announces that the French impressionist painter, Camille Pissarro, painted a view of the nearby, but now long gone, Lordship Lane station from this bridge. The path then follows the old track-bed, but just before the closed Peckarmans Tunnel it rises steeply to reach Crescent Wood Road. At nos. 2/3 a Blue Plaque can be seen commemorating Logie Baird (who transmitted the world's first TV pictures).

I then made my way along Wells Park Road to the site of Upper Sydenham station, where the path descends once more to the former railway track and then into a small housing estate. As a second tunnel entrance looms up the route swings away to climb towards Sydenham Hill, and suddenly towering above me was the Crystal Palace TV mast.

At the top of Westwood Hill is the site of 'Rockhills', marked by another Blue Plaque, which says that this was the home of Joseph Paxton (who designed the original glass palace). I made my way into the Palace grounds at 11am, and then via the Terrace, and the present (low level) railway station round past the lakes to the café for a cup of coffee at around 11.20am (almost 6 miles completed).