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would like someone to talk to?

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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 MARCH

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

**ANERLEY CENTRE
ECHO**



LENT 2011

The Newsletter of

ANERLEY METHODIST CHURCH

USEFUL CONTACTS (as at 01.01.10) 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-Sayers	8656 8684

EDITOR: Marian Young phone: 020 8402 6618 E-mail
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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




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Penge Community Pre-School

Leader: Sarah Batchelor Anerley Methodist Church

Deputy Leader: Sue Charlesworth Oakfield Road

SENCO: Dawn McConochie Anerley SE20 8QA

Ofsted Inspected

Established 30 years

**Learning through play
for children 3 to 5 years**

£7.50 per Morning or Afternoon

9.15am to 12.15am & 1pm to 4pm

Government funding for 3 & 4 year olds

Vacancies

Tel. 020 8289 6771 or 01959 575 441

February/March 2011

Volume 42 Number 5

A NEW YEAR MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT CHAIRS

Dreams can be so different from reality! In the run-up to Christmas, pretty snow-covered Christmas cards and songs such as “I’m dreaming of a white Christmas” summoned up pictures of a cosy, family gathering around a real fire, eating and drinking to their heart’s content. However, the reality of “snow has fallen snow on snow” is very different:

- People stuck at Heathrow beginning to realise they might not be able to be with family for Christmas;
- People in flats near one of our churches, living without water or heating for a week;
- vulnerable people wondering whether they can afford to keep the heating on for so long;
- The frail stuck in their houses, dependent on neighbours for ensuring they had the basics such as sufficient food for the holidays;
- Emergency workers risking life and limb as they tried to ensure those who needed help received it.

I guess that the first Christmas was not too different. Dreams of a messiah, a Saviour who would come and recreate the world as God intended it. However, in reality a weak helpless baby born a long way from home, visited by those who were having to work all night and who were excluded from the Temple. For most I suspect that the event went unnoticed and they simply got on with business as usual. But for those of us with ears to hear, a fanfare of angels announcing his birth, God with us in the midst and the mess of it all.

Only the full message of the Incarnation is sufficient to touch those of us who are hurting or lonely, grieving or longing for something different. Only the gospel message of the incarnation is sufficient to ensure that the people of God called Methodist are true to our calling. God with us, wherever we are, whatever our circumstances, waiting for us to notice, longing for us to receive his love and grace and longing for us to let his love and grace flow through us to those around. God with us, in the children drawing smiley faces on my snow-covered car, in the neighbour who set an extra place at the Christmas table, in the one who opened up the church for those with nowhere to go, in the one who gave or received an unlooked-for gift.

It was good in the last bout of snow to wake up to news on Radio 4 of how a Methodist Church in the Sheffield District had opened its doors to the lorry drivers stuck on the road outside and that teams had gone into action offering hospitality. Now that's gospel.

We're delighted by the stories of what churches within the London District are doing to share the good news and to respond to the communities around them. Keep the stories coming in so that we can encourage and inspire one another, but above all be open to the surprises that God has in store in the midst of all the difficulties and be open to becoming part of the story of God's surprising response to those around you.

Wishing you peace and joy as you seek to be good news.

Jenny, Irmal, Stewart.

(Slightly edited for reasons of space. The full letter can be found on www.methodistlondon.org.uk/chairsmessgae)

The following poem was inspired by a lady called Phil Bevan who responded to God's call to take aid to Myanmar after the floods there.

God's whisper to me

God whispered in my ear one day
And said how it would be.
I shrugged and turned away and said,
"No way, you can't mean me.

Next time it wasn't a whisper
He spoke quite loud and clear
He had a job for me to do
He said" Have faith, don't fear."

So I took the challenge offered
But how should I begin
This task was much to big for me
I had to trust in Him.

When the problems overwhelmed me
And I couldn't see my way
I'd put my hope and faith in Him
Fall to my knees and pray

And my God, He never failed me
Through good days and through bad
He filled me with a courage
I never knew I had.

So if you feel God calling you
Don't doubt and answer "No."
He know the plans he has for you
Step out in faith...and go!

Mallie Sharpe

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

FRIDAY 4th MARCH 2011

A Service prepared by Christian Women of
Chile

This year the service in our area will take place at

St. John's Church 7.30pm

Speaker: Rev. Daron Medway

The service is not only for women. Men are also welcome to attend!



METHODIST TALENTS FESTIVAL

The Talents Festival will be held on Saturday 5th March at Shirley Methodist Church. Several of our Church family have entered Handicraft classes and "live" classes. I hope to have timetables shortly if you want to see what is on when. If you would like a timetable or travel directions to the Church, please see me.

Marian

NEWS FROM FATHER RUIZ

Many of you support Father Ruiz and the Casa Ricci Social Services by your donations to "Joan's Tin". The following is taken from the latest edition of the charity's newsletter.

"Two weeks ago Fr. Luis Ruiz celebrated his 98 years old birthday. Unlike last year, he didn't spend his birthday in Macau, but celebrating the inauguration of the new HIV Children Home that Casa Ricci together with AIDS Care China has started in Guangdong province. Around the 9 children who lives in the home were people from all around the world: our own staff, government officials, religious sisters, HIV+ friends, benefactors, partner friends of Maryknoll and Salesian ...and Fr. Ruiz. We were not many, but very diverse. A new community has been created, centred in the children and opened to everybody. A community where nobody needs to hide his or her own identity. Love breaking walls, defeating fear, distrust and exclusion. That is Fr. Ruiz's mission and legacy to all of us. This is Fr. Ruiz's legacy to China."

In his covering letter Father Ruiz wrote "...I am 98 years old, our Lord can take me any time as He please. The doctor was very happy to see me in so good condition and in reality I am feeling very well. Thanks for the blessing from our Lord.

Recently I was very happy that I could go to Han Zhong-Xian in 3 days, to see my leper patients, nearly 300 in our home with 8 Sisters and volunteers who take care of them. Everyone was well dressed and had plenty of food. They are repairing more houses to receive more yet. I want to go back to see the new houses for the newcomers and bless every one of them.

Actually I have to take care of 44 Aids little children and 12 adult Aids in 5 centres under the care of the Sisters.

Remembering you in my Masses and prayers, and wishing you and your dear ones...every blessing in the New Year 2011."

LETTER FROM OXFAM

Joan Loring, our Oxfam Pledged Gifts representative, has received the following letter from Oxfam:-

“Dear Miss Loring

”Thank you all so much for your hard work and the support you have given Oxfam in 2010. We have completed our annual review and altogether you have raised the great sum of £28,550. I hope you all feel justifiably proud of what you achieved.

“In years of responding to disasters, the destruction and logistical challenges caused by Haiti’s earthquake which struck on 12 January 2010, were amongst the worst Oxfam had ever encountered. Our Haiti response (coordinated from a makeshift office in a battered hut after our Port-au-Prince office had been destroyed) has been a story of obstacles overcome.

“As with the Asian tsunami emergency almost five years earlier, public support for the Haiti disaster was overwhelmingly generous, with over \$US 98 million raised worldwide to fund Oxfam’s humanitarian response. One year on and Oxfam has achieved considerable success in a context of overwhelming ongoing human need. At the time of writing, we have reached over 500,000 people with our earthquake response program, and a further 700,000 people with activities to prevent the spread of cholera....

“We hope you all had a peaceful and happy Christmas and wish you all the best for 2011.

Charlotte Isles Ken Smith”

Christmas Post Boxes

Despite the snowy weather, all cards posted by the date of the last collection were delivered in time for Christmas. Donations received amounted to £86.19 (2009 = £101.44), which has been sent to St. Christopher’s Hospice.

Action for Children

We had only planned to go carolling on one evening at Christmas but regrettably this had to be cancelled due to the treacherous condition of the pavements.

It had also been our intention to fix a new date for the Snowflake social, postponed because of snow last year. However, as we don’t want to be caught out by the weather again we have decided to cancel the event. This means that Action for Children will have missed out on two fund-raising activities. Instead we hope to organise an alternative event in the better weather, which we hope everyone will support.

Christian Action Group

Our winter programme concludes with visits from the Revd. John Taylor (minister of Penge Congregational Church) on Tuesday 15th February and the Revd. Derek Stanworth (retired Methodist Minister who has previously worked in the Caribbean) on Monday 14th March. If you would like to come along and/or need a lift please let Andrew know.

Christian Aid

Andrew hopes to undertake a Sponsored Walk to raise funds for Christian Aid Week. Further details in the next edition of the magazine.

INTROIT

Our introit for the next four months will be as follows:-

Draw near to God and He'll draw near to you;
 Draw near to God and He'll draw near to you.
 Lift up holy hands to Him and sing of what He's done;
 Open up your hearts to Him and praise Him for His
 Son;
 Draw near to God and He'll draw near to you;
 Draw near to God and He'll draw near to you.

Mission Praise no.118

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RETIRING COLLECTIONS DURING FEBRUARY

Our retiring collections at Communion Services during February will be for Crisis, the national charity for single homeless people. Their stated purpose is to end homelessness by transforming the lives of homeless people and by preventing people becoming homeless.

They are dedicated to ending homelessness by delivering life-changing services and campaigning for change. They work in key areas of employment, education, housing, Crisis Skylight (providing training and employment), health and well-being and—probably the most well-know—Crisis at Christmas. More details of their work can be found on their website: www.crisis.org.uk.

COOKERY CORNER

Banana Oat Squares

Ingredients

100gr (4oz) butter	½ teaspn ground cinnamon*
50gr (2oz) light brown sugar	½ teaspn ground ginger*
100gr (4oz) syrup	(*or mixed spice)
50gr (2oz) plain flour	½ teaspn. baking powder
3 bananas, mashed	pinch of salt

Method

1. Melt butter, sugar and syrup over a low heat.
2. Stir in oats
3. Sift flour, spice, baking powder and salt, add to mixture and stir well.
4. Add bananas and mix
5. Turn into a greased 16 x26cm tray bake tin.
6. Bake in a pre-heated oven at 180°C, 350° F, gas mark 4, for 20-25minutes, then cut into squares.

Ann Vickery