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

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SUNDAY 11TH MARCH

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

**ANERLEY CENTRE
ECHO**



LENT 2012

The Newsletter of

ANERLEY METHODIST CHURCH

USEFUL CONTACTS (as at 01.07.11) All prefix 020

Church (Minister is not available on this number)		8289 6771
Minister	Rev. Graham Cocking	8653 4902
Church Council Secretary	Marian Young	8402 6618
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
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
m.young23@ntlworld.com

METHODIST

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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

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February/March 2012

Volume 43 Number 5

Greetings,

Where are we going? What are we doing? As the continent of Europe we are confused. Even nature doesn't seem to know where it is and us as Christians, what do we know.

Europe. Well is it a financial zone focussing on the euro, or a political zone embracing a number of countries who feel stronger to be a part of a larger group yet not willing to lose nationality or other ownership interests, or is it an economic union. Whatever it is what is its focus of being and where is it going?

Nature. Daffodils in full bloom, buds on trees, growing grass, all confused by unseasonable weather. Is the weather changing or not? What will climate change mean to our future? Will we soon be growing coffee and cocoa rather than rhubarb?

Christians. Where do we stand in the influences on our being? What are we prepared to do in terms of our part in creating financial stability, political ambition, economic awareness or climate change? What indeed could the Christian influence be and if we know that how is our knowledge going to be promulgated for the greater good?

The time of year approaches when we reflect. When we reflect on the nature of God, on our ability or lack of ability to understand what He wants us to do, on our past wrongful nature and how we can make redress and put it right in the future.

Lent will soon be upon us as we reflect once more on the covenant we have recently remade with God. As Lent ends the lesson, our lesson, becomes clearer.

Christ came and lived in a confused world. The confusion of politics; of religious fervour of the fear of losing control; Herod and Pilate and their political ambitions; The High Priests, Scribes and Sadducees with their religious hierarchy being threatened. The solution – His own death; yet not just a death but a death with meaning; a death to end divisions; a death that had at its basis new life.

So what does that say to us? Perhaps it is saying that some of our most precious ways have to change for the greater good. We may have to give up some of our treasures to return to a way of life that is more spartan, yet more considerate, of other factors, other principles, other people. Perhaps it is saying to us that we have moved farther away from God into our own individual, selfish, cosy environments and we need to re-evaluate and move back.

Christ died that we might live, have new life. This Spring as we meditate through Lent, as we prepare for Easter let us let Christ remake us and help us live in His way. Let us return to Him, put our trust in Him, walk in His way. Let us tackle the problems we have in our world together so that peace and prosperity for all may reign.

Where are we going? To be in Christ.

What are we doing? Going to walk in His way.

We know.

Whether it be finance, politics or nature we can make a difference if we do it in ways guided by God.

Happy thinking and reflecting.

Graham

communities, physical, psychological and social wounds will be healed, human dignity will be affirmed, and communion restored and recreated... During the last fifteen years of his life, Fr. Ruiz invited more than one hundred religious Sisters to leave the safety of their places and religious communities to go to live together with the leprosy or HIV-AIDS infected and affected patients, not only to care for them, but also to learn from them.

The third lesson Fr. Ruiz taught us is to **neither trust too much in your own strengths, nor be discouraged by your own limits.** His secret was to rely only on God's powerful love and to not be afraid to follow His inspirations to start new and challenging works. Without denying the complexity of our mission, problems, hardships, challenges or our own miseries, Fr. Ruiz taught us to smile and put our eyes, our confidence and our hope only in the Lord.

Finally, the fourth lesson he taught us is that **we should firmly believe in every person's capacity to love.** ...Father Ruiz firmly believed that God has given to every person the capacity to love and to give. It doesn't matter how much you give, provided you give from the bottom of your heart. Everybody, even the poorest of the poor, can give and show solidarity to those who are in need.

Friendship and solidarity with those who suffer, build community with them, put all your confidence and hope only in God, trust in people's capacity to love. These are the four lessons that Father Ruiz has taught to us at Casa Ricci. These are the lessons that the Lord has taught to Father Ruiz. Finally, these are the lessons that the Lord has shown to us when he decided to be born in the poverty of the manger in Bethlehem. These four lessons that can be simply summarised in one word: "**Love.**" ...

Fr. Fernando
Macau, November 2011

CASA RICCI SOCIAL SERVICES

We support the above group through the donations made to “Joan’s tin” and last year we were sorry to hear that Father Ruiz, our contact for many years, had died at the age of 98. During that time he worked tirelessly with lepers, HIV-AIDS patients and orphans in China, setting up and visiting homes, hospitals and clinics.

The following tribute to Father Ruiz is adapted from the CRSS November newsletter:-

Special persons influence not only individuals but also communities and institutions as well. Fr. Ruiz is one of those persons...I believe he has taught us four fundamental lessons.

The first lesson Fr. Ruiz has taught us is that **solidarity means personal friendship with those who suffer**. Fr. Ruiz never understood discrimination and marginalization as abstract problems, but through their effects in people’s lives. For him discrimination and marginalization were against people’s dignity and right to live as beloved sons and daughters of God because they destroy people’s health, hope and joy, education and future, people’s socio-economic possibilities and people’s cultures. In order to understand their suffering, Fr. Ruiz wanted to see, to hear and to touch the leprosy patients, the HIV-AIDS patients, the orphans and the abandoned. For him the only “solution” to the suffering he saw in their faces and bodies was personal friendship and solidarity. This kind of friendship requires a lot of courage, personal commitment and self-sacrifice. It requires the grace...to feel their suffering as your own suffering, their problems as your own problems.

The second lesson Fr. Ruiz has taught us is that **real friendship with the poor and marginalized means to live with them and build communities with them**. ...We should work as a community which has the mission to build other communities....In these

ROUND THE FAMILY

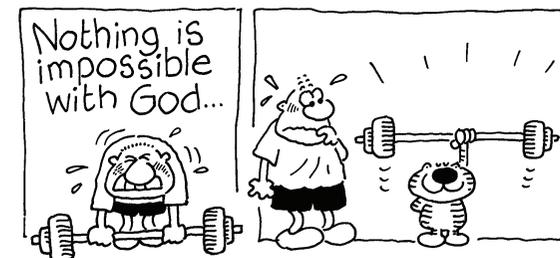
We were sorry to hear of the death of Anne Jackson on 20th December following a long period of ill-health. Anne was a member at Anerley for many years before transferring her membership to St. John’s Methodist Church, Wandsworth, following her marriage to Eddie Jackson. She was for many years a teacher in the Sunday School/Junior Church at Anerley and many people will have memories of her. Please remember Eddie and the family in your prayers.

Please also remember in your prayers Stella Roberts, who is awaiting treatment at the Royal Marsden Hospital.

Our services over the Christmas period were very enjoyable and well attended, and our Junior Church enjoyed helping to show us how to make a Christingle at the Gift Service.

The Church received Christmas and New Year greetings from Jenny and the Rev. Graham Cocking, The Rev. Judy and Alan Turner-Smith, the Rev. Dr. Philip and Laurel Luscombe, Rose Bateman, Ronnie Butler, Abraham Doku, Muriel French, McPhene Pluck and family, Kathleen Seal and family, Upper Norwood Methodist Church, Forest Hill Methodist Church and Wesley Hall Methodist Church.

Marian



WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
FRIDAY 2nd MARCH 2012

A Service prepared by Christian Women of
 Malaysia

“Let Justice Prevail”

This year the service in our area will take place at

Penge Baptist Church, Maple Road

at 7.30pm

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



Christmas Post Boxes

Thank you to everyone who used the Post box. Your donations raised £87.42 (2010 = £86.19), which has been sent to St. Christopher's Hospice.

WANTED! A Christian Aid representative for our church.

This position has been vacant since Joan Loring stood down after completing many years of loyal service.

We urgently need someone who can act as a contact point for the area co-ordinator, currently Chris Doran of the local Congregational Church, so that information and literature about Christian Aid Week in particular and the ongoing work of the charity can come through to us.

Although we have not participated in the annual door-to-door collection for a while, we do still try to raise funds through special efforts. It is hoped that the new church representative could both stimulate our interest in Christian Aid as well as co-ordinate any money-raising efforts.

If you have not previously had a 'job' within the church, or have had a break and feel now is the time to get more involved, why not consider volunteering to take this on. You can make the position interesting and rewarding, and a worthwhile part of your own Christian service.

If you are interested and want more information please have a word with me.

Andrew
 (on behalf of the Stewards)

COOKERY CORNER

Cappuccino Muffins

Ingredients

25gr (8oz) self-raising flour
 Scant ½ teaspoon bicarbonate of soda (can be omitted)
 Scant ½ teaspoon salt
 1 tablespoon coffee powder
 150gr (5 oz) sugar
 2 large eggs
 125ml (4 fl. oz) milk
 125 ml (4 fl. oz) sunflower oil

Method

1. Sift flour, bicarb. of soda, salt and coffee powder together.
2. Add sugar
3. In another bowl, whisk eggs, milk and oil together
4. Fold this mixture into flour mixture, batter should be lumpy.
5. Spoon into muffin cases, filling each $\frac{2}{3}$ full.
6. Bake in a pre-heated oven at 200° C (400°F) Gas Mark 6 for about 20 minutes or until golden brown.
7. Turn out onto a wire rack to cool

Ann Vickery

RETIRING COLLECTIONS DURING FEBRUARY

Our retiring collections at Communion Services during February will be for Young Carers Bromley, a local charity which supports young people between the ages of 4 and 18 years whose lives are in some way restricted because of the need to take responsibility or care for someone in their family with long-term illness, disability, mental health issues, an alcohol/substance abuse problem or HIV. Amongst other things, Young Carers Bromley provides after school and holiday activities, key worker support, a Young Carers Forum and a helpline service.

YORK LENT COURSE 2011

HANDING ON THE TORCH

Sacred words for a secular world; a five-week course for Lent by Canon John Young

Contributors: Archbishop Jon Sentamu, Rachel Lampard, Clifford Longley, Bishop Graham Longley (Closing reflections).

We shall be following this course at Anerley on Thursdays
 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th March at 8pm

More details from Valerie Tredinnick

NEW CIRCUIT UPDATE

A letter from Graham was distributed to everyone just before Christmas giving details of progress on the new circuit. The letter is reproduced below just in case anyone missed seeing it, and so that everyone is aware of what is happening.

Dear Friends

The New Circuit

Most of you will be aware that over the last two years there have been prolonged discussions about the possible merger of the Sydenham and Forest Hill Circuit and the Blackheath and Lewisham Circuit into a new Circuit as from 1st September 2012.

Sub groups to cover Staffing, Finance, Worship and Mission have been meeting and will continue to meet as we go forward.

On the 31st October both Circuits met individually, heard the reports of the individual church councils, and **voted unanimously** to recommend to the District that the two Circuits are disbanded and a new Circuit of 9 churches formed on the 1st September 2012. This will mean that the churches in the new circuit will be: Anerley, Forest Hill, Upper Norwood, Wesley Hall, Burnt Ash, Eltham Park, Hither Green, Lewisham and Sunfields.

The above proposal will go to the Spring Synod of the London District before being authorised at the Methodist Conference in June/July 2012.

After the individual Circuit Meetings a joint Circuit Meeting

took place to report the separate meeting discussions and accept any possible names for the new Circuit. It also recommended that Rev. Stephen Maunder, the present Blackheath and Lewisham Superintendent, should be the new Circuit Superintendent from September 2012.

It should be noted that individual Church Constitution and Practice will not change other than being overseen by and be responsible to the new Circuit.

As we go forward a budget for the new Circuit will be prepared and agreed with all the church treasurers. A Shadow Circuit meeting has been arranged for 20th March 2012 to consider the budget, a new Circuit name and the Constitution of the new Circuit Meeting and Leadership Team.

Concurrent to this process the invitation for someone to replace Graham when he retires has been ongoing, with the result that Upper Norwood and Anerley has been accepted as a Probationers Appointment. We await the placing of a probationer minister in early January 2012 to take up their position on 1st September 2012.

Please do not hesitate to contact Graham or Pam if you need further clarification.

I will continue to keep everyone informed as the process progresses.

May God richly bless us as we continue our journey.

Graham

STOP PRESS It has just been announced that our new Probationer Minister will be Imran Malik. He is married to Sarah who is a former Methodist Youth President. They have a son Rohan who is two years old.