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

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

SUNDAY 11TH NOVEMBER

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

**ANERLEY CENTRE
ECHO**



AUTUMN 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




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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 2007

Volume 39 Number 3

FROM THE MINISTER

Dear Friends,

This year as we celebrate the harvest let us remember.

Let us remember the hundreds of thousands in West and Central Africa whose lives have been shattered by the terrible floods that have decimated large parts of many countries. Let us remember homes lost, land flooded, crops destroyed, livelihoods and lives lost.

As we celebrate let us remember our own farmers whose yields have been cut by the floods in our own country and the inclement weather since.

As we celebrate let us remember all who have been affected by the Foot and Mouth outbreaks and now Blue Tongue. The slaughtered cattle; the emotional trauma of the people; the business pain and financial loss.

Let us remember.

And let us remember the forces that work against the spiritual harvest. Forces that transcend national boundaries as the floods have done.

Let us remember the force of fear, of hatred, of ideologies.

Let us remember selfishness, greed, anger, pride.

Let us remember all that turns people away from God.

And let us ask ourselves, what can we do?

How can we help?

What is our responsibility and how can we address it?

There is the wheat but as Mark 4 verses 1 - 20 tells us there are also the thorns.

What do you sow?

Seeds of love or seeds of hatred?

Seeds of selflessness or seeds of greed?

Seeds of humility or seeds of pride?

What example does your life give to those you meet?

A good example will help produce a good spiritual harvest.

A bad example will be as destructive as floods and disease.

Are you a good seed that will produce a good harvest or a bad seed, a weed, a thorn, which will lead to pain in our world?

The choice is there for us to take.

This harvest let us give thanks for all that is good and productive in our world both physical and spiritual but also remember all those whose harvest has been destroyed by the vagaries of life.

Food for thought!

God be with you.

Graham

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 £76.90p...

“As well as our emergency and long term development work, Oxfam has always campaigned to overcome the root causes of poverty and to put pressure on governments to do more for poor people.

“Now that the UK has a new Prime Minister we are asking George Brown to be bold and put the fight against poverty, climate change and its impact on poor people, and a just foreign policy firmly on the table in his first 100 days in office.

“Just to show the impact of campaigning, the coffee giant Starbucks have recently signed an agreement with the Ethiopian government that provides a better deal for the 15 million Ethiopians who depend on coffee growing. This followed tens of thousand of Oxfam supporters and others contacting Starbucks and helping convince them to sign the deal.

“If you have any questions about campaigning, 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”

PATRICK KANDEH'S INDUCTION

As many of you will know, Patrick has been mentored by Graham for the last 10 months as part of his training to be a Methodist minister and has preached at Anerley several times over the last few months.

Patrick has now been appointed as a probationer minister in the Bromley circuit, with responsibility for Beckenham and Clock House Methodist Churches and his Induction service took place on 5th September at Beckenham Methodist Church. Four of us from Anerley and four people from Upper Norwood attended the service to support Patrick.

The service was conducted by the Superintendent Minister, the Rev. Roger Wiig, and the preacher was the Rev. Jenny Impey, Assistant Chair of the Methodist London District. Another new Minister was also being inducted at the same time, so the Church was full with friends and relatives, and Patrick was also supported by a large contingent from Wandsworth Methodist Church, who also took part in the service. It was an enjoyable and inspiring occasion.

Patrick was pleased to see us and has promised to come back to Anerley to meet everyone again soon. He has sent a "Thank-you" card which is on the entrance hall notice board.

Marian



ROUND THE FAMILY

Dinah Anaman has had surgery on her shoulder, but will not know for some time whether it has been successful. We were also sorry to hear that Anita Yusuf's sister Winifred and niece were involved in a car crash in Guyana in August but are now home from hospital. Please remember Dinah, and Anita's family, in your prayers.

We were sorry to hear of the death of Mrs. Garrard at the beginning of September. She was the mother of Anne, Ernie, Bernard, Brian, Sharon and Ian, who all attended Junior Church about 40 years ago. Those of us who were teaching in the Junior Church at the time will remember them as they each progressed through the various age group classes and Valerie has kept in touch with the family ever since.

We were pleased to welcome Nicole Azu into the family of the Church at her Baptism at the beginning of August and to be joined by her family and friends on this happy occasion.

Josie Oppong will be going to Warwick University at the end of September to take a Master's Degree Course and some of our young people are beginning A level and college courses. We wish them well and remember everyone for whom September is a new start, whether it be a new school, college or employment.

As we go to press we hear that Andrew Tredinnick has had a fall whilst on a walking holiday and has dislocated his shoulder. Our thoughts are with Andrew and we hope he will soon be on the road to recovery.

Marian

Kumasi School Library Appeal

The Songs of Praise evening was a great success and well supported across the Circuit. Our particular thanks go to Valerie for leading the event; to Marian, Sandra (Clifton) and Peter for playing; and to Janice for providing the refreshments. Thanks also to those who sponsored the 34 hymns and songs, and to everyone who came and sang with such gusto on what was quite a warm night. Sponsor money, together with the retiring collection, raised £317.40. (If anyone unable to attend would like a list of the hymns sung, please ask Valerie for a copy).

The last of the Evening Meals with Valerie and Andrew is on Friday 5th October. There is just one remaining place. Please see Valerie if you would like to come. The suggested donation is £10.

Andrew is again looking for sponsors when he walks the Erith branch of the Green Chain Walk in October, a distance of about 19 miles. (Several people said that they had read with interest the magazine item earlier in the year about his walk from Woolwich to Crystal Palace. He will write a similar piece describing the route from Erith for a later edition of the magazine).

As at the end of August, the amount received for the project was almost £2,080, but check the notice board in the entrance hall for the latest figure. Can you do something to raise funds? There is still time as the appeal does not close until the end of the year.

A.T

BIBLE PUZZLE

This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an aeroplane seat pocket, on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much he passed it on to a friend. She judges the job of solving this puzzle so involved that she brews a cup of tea to help her concentrate. There will be some names that are really easy to spot. There's a fact. Some people however will find themselves in a jam especially since the books are not necessarily capitalized. Truthfully from the answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or scholar to see some of them at the worst. Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this paragraph. During a recent fund raising event, which features this puzzle, the Adelphi lemonade stall set a new sales record. The local paper, the chronicle, surveyed over 200 readers who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had seen. And one put it 'books are all here in plain view'. Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation that may help is that the books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. Also keep in mind that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mass exodus, there are really 25 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph waiting to be found.

(Thanks to Dave for providing this puzzle)

Note from Marian it is possible to find all 25—I did it in about 45 minutes. Can you do better? If you are stumped, see me and I will let you have a copy of the solution.

RELEASE INTERNATIONAL

Release International now provide a ministry for women called *Women: Heart2Heart*. They are holding their first one day conference for women, called **Sharing Spiritual Treasures**, on Saturday 20th October 2007 at St. Michael's Church, Chester Square, London SW1, from 10am to 4pm, ticket price £5.

The conference will be the first event for *Heart2Heart*. An Eritrean Christian will share how sisters in her country are living and growing spiritually with the everyday reality of suffering for what they believe. The day will also include prayer and an opportunity for action. A *Heart2Heart* Action Pack will be given to delegates to develop ideas and ways of praying and supporting sisters around the world within their home churches and women's groups. The question will be also be asked, "How can women in the UK prepare for the growing signs of persecution?"

For further details and tickets call: 01689 823491, email: info@releaseinternational.org, write to Release International, PO Box 54, Orpington BR5 9RT



THE BEATITUDES

A Study Series by

Frank Collier

At Anerley Methodist Church 8pm- 9.30pm

THURSDAYS

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 27th September | Self-Knowledge and the Knowledge of the Kingdom of God (ii) The Blessing of the Kingdom |
| 4th October | In the Shadow of Grief |
| 11th October | Meekness - Virtue or Folly? |

TUESDAYS

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 20th November | The Quest for Righteousness and Justice |
| 27th November | The Quality of Mercy |
| 4th December | The Transparent Christian |

In Newbury, Berkshire, a vicar driving his car nearly knocked a cyclist over. They stopped and had a friendly chat. Then the vicar pulled out one of his calling cards. "I feel I must give you this," he said. The card read: "The Reverend Smith is sorry he missed you today."

METHODIST SCHOOL OF FELLOWSHIP

This year I went to Swanwick in Derbyshire for the Methodist School of Fellowship to share in worshipping, praying and fun with other Christians between the ages of 0 –101 years old.

This year's theme was "Remoulding the clay, ways of being a new church" it has been reported that churches spend a lot of energy bringing in new people, yet while we encourage people to come in through the front door, a huge number are leaving by the back door. In the Fellowship we talked about ways of being a new church, such as changing the way we worship into café-style of worship. In theory, adults and children can walk around different stations in the room dealing with different topics and worship around tables using different forms of media such as books.

We also discussed why people had left the church and asked the youth their thoughts about the church. They found eight major reason for leaving: loss of faith, changing values, stages of faith development, changes and chances, childhood upbringing, cost of commitment, disillusionment with church/unfilled expectations, belonging factors.

In our Bible Studies led by Jane Leach we did a study "Come to the Potter's House" based on the book of Jeremiah. We spoke about what ways the church can use to encourage people not to leave, and some ideas were having an effective pastoral strategy to address the problem of church leaving, having more praises, having a confronting sermon rather than a comforting sermon and having youth services.

Personally I think all we can do is pray that through the Holy Spirit and the fruits of the Spirit then all churches can grow but we must remember that the church is not the building, the denomination or the leadership but the believers who individually gather together for the fellowship. When that fellowship degenerates into something that actually contravenes

have built bridges across barriers in greatly distressing situations our awareness was raised about the possibilities of crossing divides.

The Circuit total for the Easter Offering Envelopes was £1304.76 which was an unprecedented sum. There was a very generous single donation this year which boosted the total The collection at the Service amounted to £103.50.

The JMA shield was presented at the Service and was won by Anerley as the Church that had the highest increase, not the highest amount collected. The money collected is used by the Junior Missionary Association (JMA) for work with children and young people who need support in the World Church and in Britain.

SUMMER GARDEN PARTY was on Saturday 7 July 2007 – 2.00p.m. to 5.00 pm. at Forest Hill Methodist Church and Centre at Normanton Street, SE 23.

This year it was a tremendous corporate effort from members of all the four Churches of the Circuit and together we have achieved great rewards – a substantial sum to be forwarded to the World Mission Fund.

It was also an extremely enjoyable afternoon of fellowship for the members of the Churches and an opportunity for us to meet the community around.

To everyone who worked so hard in helping in so many different ways to make the Garden Party such a great success and to all who attended - thank you very much and God bless you.

Ira Fernando

Circuit Missions Secretary

The district

The district serves a geographical group of circuits and is led by the district chair. Our circuit is now in the London District, which roughly covers the area inside the M25. Prior to 2006 there were four London Districts which covered much greater areas—our Circuit was in the London South East District, which covered south-east London, Kent and part of Sussex.

The Chair of the new London District is the Rev. Ermal Kirby. There are two assistant Chairs, the Rev. Jenny Impey, responsible for Circuits south of the river, and the Rev. Dr. Stuart Jordan, responsible for north of the river.

The Conference

The annual Methodist Conference meets at different places (this year it was held at Blackpool) and is the supreme decision-making body of the Church.

(Based on “The Methodist Church of Great Britain/Structure” on the Methodist Church website www.methodist.org.uk)

CIRCUIT MISSIONS AND NETWORK NEWS

It is indeed a pleasure to report about the two special events organised by the Circuit Missions and Network Committee in the past four months. They were both extremely successful mainly due to the commitment of the committee as well as members of all four churches who worked so hard and contributed in numerous ways.

EASTER OFFERING SERVICE was held on Sunday 6 May 2007 at 3.30 p.m. at Forest Hill Methodist Church and Centre, Normanton Street, SE 23. The theme of the service this year was **Crossing Divides**. Through a strong focus on the readings which described real life experiences of people who

scripture, it has ceased to be “church”.

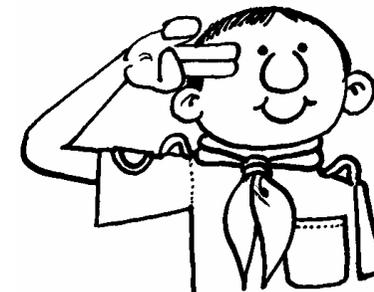
There were also workshops on the eco-church, what’s behind the bike sheds and songs of worship, which were all excellent. The theme was a big subject but I hope that these few words will have opened your eyes to a new way of thinking about this difficult area.

Anyone interested in attending the next Methodist School of Fellowship please ring Gerald Hardy (Upper Norwood Methodist Church) on 020 8670 3276.

Martha Agyei

SCOUT GROUP

The Scout Group are collecting aluminium cans to raise money for the Group and would like everyone who has empty cans to bring them to Church and place them in the green bin in the entrance hall. It is labelled so you can’t make any mistake! They only want aluminium drinks cans, no metal food tins or anything thing else. So next time you have a can of coke, don’t bin the tin, bring it to Church! You are also doing your bit for the environment by recycling.



BIBLE READING NOTES WITH A NEW LOOK!

The popular annual volumes of Bible reading notes for the International Bible Reading Association, *Light for our Path* and *Words for Today*, are now being launched in new designs and a slightly larger page-a-day format for 2008.

Each year, IBRA produces a scheme of daily Bible readings, linked to the Revised Common Lectionary, which forms the basis for both volumes, combining systematic reading of texts with wide-ranging themes. In 2008 the themes include Refugees, Violence and War, The Hidden God, Colour in the Bible and Seeing God in Creation. Books of the Bible studies include Deuteronomy, Isaiah, Matthew's Gospel, and Romans.

LIGHT FOR OUR PATH, edited by Kate Hughes, is an ideal place to start exploring the Bible. Contributors from all over the world offer reflections based on their own backgrounds and experience, providing a rich variety of sometimes surprising insights. The Biblical text for the week is printed in full and a short extract from each day's reading is included, so that the notes can be used in your lunch break or when traveling, without needing a Bible to hand. There is a daily prayer and ideas for group discussion or individual reflection.

WORDS FOR TODAY, edited by poet and theologian Nicola Slee, presents a lively, fresh and often radical approach to the text, and is particularly suitable for those who want a more challenging daily diet. Writes are drawn from around the globe and from different traditions, including Jewish as well as Christian biblical scholars. Readers are challenged not only to reflect but also to act in the light of the readings.

Note from Marian

I have leaflets giving details of the new-format books and also sample copies of each publication, if you want to see what they look like "in the flesh". I would like to send the order off

around the beginning of November, so would appreciate your orders by then. The books cost £8 each. *Light for our Path* is also available in large print format for £11. Both books are also available on cassette for £8 each; if you subscribe to the cassette scheme you will be sent a monthly cassette of the Notes and an addressed postage-paid envelope to return the tape. Please see me for further details.

Marian

METHODIST CHURCH STRUCTURE

For those who are comparatively new to the Methodist Church it may sometimes be confusing to hear people talk of "the Circuit" or "the District". The following notes may help you to understand how it all fits together.

The Connexion

Methodists are linked together in a "Connexion" of churches, circuits and districts.

The local church

The local Church is the congregational place of worship, where Methodist members and attenders are nurtured, in our case Anerley Methodist Church.

The circuit

A circuit is a group of local churches, served by a team of local preachers and ministers including the superintendent minister. Our Circuit is the Sydenham and Forest Hill Circuit. The four churches in our circuit are Anerley, Upper Norwood, Forest Hill and Wesley Hall, Sydenham. Our Superintendent minister is the Rev. Graham Cocking. The other circuit ministers, local preachers and circuit officials are shown on the Circuit Plan, produced once a quarter.