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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 13TH JULY

Anerley Methodist Church, Oakfield Road, Anerley,
London SE20 8QA
Web site:www.anerleymethodist.org

**ANERLEY CENTRE
ECHO**



SUMMER 2008

**The Newsletter of
ANERLEY METHODIST CHURCH**

USEFUL CONTACTS (as at 01.06.07) 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		
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
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METHODIST

METHODIST INSURANCE Crystal clear insurance

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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

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JUNE/JULY 2008

Volume 40 Number 1

In the absence of our Minister, Rev. Graham Cocking, on Sabbatical leave, I have mined the archives for a Letter by a previous Minister, Rev. Peter Coates from the Autumn/Winter 1975 edition.

LETTER FROM THE MINISTER

Have you ever heard it said (or even said it yourself), "God never answers my prayers, I'm not going to bother any more."? I've certainly heard similar words far too many times than I care to remember. Just the other day I came across a very good answer to people who talk like that:-

Answers to Prayer

He asked for strength that he might achieve; he was made weak that he might obey.

He asked for health that he might do greater things; he was given infirmity that he might do better things.

He asked for riches that he might be happy; he was given poverty that he might be wise.

He asked for praise that he might have the praise of men; he was given weakness that he might feel the power of God.

He asked for all things that he might enjoy life; he was given life that he may enjoy all things.

He has received nothing that he asked for; all that he hoped for. His prayer is answered. (Anon).

If we learn nothing more than these lessons during the coming months, we shall all have learned a tremendous amount.

With love and best wishes, Peter

FROM THE EDITOR

With this edition the magazine commences its 40th year of production, for the last 16 of which I have been editor. Mike started the magazine as a couple of duplicated foolscap sheets in June 1969 and it is now an A5 sized magazine – and it also appears on-line as part of the Church’s website! I wonder if any other Church magazine has been edited by members of the same family for nearly 40 years. (If so, I’m sure someone will tell me!)

Of course it would be much harder for me to produce the magazine without the help of Valerie and Andrew Tredinnick, who collate and staple the magazine, and Dave Hynes, who maintains the mailing list, and I am grateful for all their help.

Thanks also to all those people who give me articles, news and suggestions—without you there would be no magazine. I am always on the look out for more articles and ideas so if you have any news or an idea for an article, or even feel moved to write the occasional article yourself, please have a word with me.

If you want to write an article yourself and have access to a computer, you can send it by e-mail or save it to a disc (which I can supply). The page size is A5 and preferred font size is 12, in either Arial or Times New Roman font (though I can play around with whatever you send me, so that it fits my template). Otherwise I am happy to type up whatever you give me. I would rather have something handwritten than nothing at all!

Marian

JOB**Wrestling with God**

A Study Series in 12 sessions

By Paul Stevens

At Anerley Methodist Church Thursdays 8pm- 9.30pm

Sessions 1-6

22nd May	Duelling with the Devil. Job 1:1 -2:10
29th May	God in the Dark. Job 2: 11-4:17
5th June	God-Talk; How not to be spiritual friends. Job 6
12th June	If only God were human! Job 7: 7-21; Job 9: 14-10:7
19th June	The faith that rebels. Job:13:1-14:17
26th June	Our Heavenly Guarantor. Job 16:7- 17:3; 19: 23-27

Sessions 7- 12 will be held in the Autumn

The Problem of Pain . Job 20: 1-19; 21: 1-16.
The Silence of God. Job 23
Songs in the Night. Job 35; 36: 13-16
God in the Storm. Job 38: 1-11,31-41; 40: 1-5
The joy of Repentance. Job 40: 6-14; 42: 1-6
Is faith always worthwhile? Job 42: 7-17

JUNIOR MISSION FOR ALL (JMA)

Each year the Circuit JMA shield is presented to the Church in the Circuit which has increased its JMA collections over the last year by the largest percentage (**not** the church which has collected the most) and this year Anerley won the shield for the second year running. The shield was presented to Dinah Anaman, our JMA Secretary, at the Easter Offering Service held at our Church on 18th May. It is again hanging on the wall towards the front of the Church if you would like to have another look at it. Congratulations to our small band of regular collectors. If you would like to give regularly to any of our collectors, please have a word with Dinah.

Jars of Grace

Thank you to everyone who collected for the UNICEF Jars of Grace appeal during Lent. The total raised was £62.09.

Marian

Answers to Brainteasers

1. Yourself. 2. Your father. 3. His son. 4. Grandson and Grandfather. 5. Man (4 legs crawling as a baby, 2 legs walking as a man, 2 legs plus walking stick as old man). 6. A cherry. 7. A candle. 8. A pair of boots or shoes. 9. Replace the signpost so that the sign for Dorking points down the road you have just driven along. 10. There were only 3 people, a grandfather, a father and a son (the father was the son of the grandfather)

ROUND THE FAMILY

We were very sorry to hear of the death of Vicky Shine's father at the beginning of April. Please remember Vicky and her family as they come to terms with their loss.

Please also remember Adam McKop who has been very unwell in hospital but is now home again and feeling a bit better.

Our Church Anniversary Service this year was led by the previous Minister of our Church, the Rev. Dr. Andrew Goodhead, who is now the Spiritual Care Lead at St. Christopher's Hospice. It was good to see Andrew again and to exchange all our news.

Marian

TERRY WALTON

We were sorry to hear of the death of the Rev. Terry Walton on 11th May. Terry Walton was a local preacher in the Circuit for many years before offering for the Methodist Ministry as a mature applicant. Whilst in the Circuit he was the youth leader at Upper Norwood Methodist Church and was responsible for building links between the young people in our Circuit and the Brixton circuit through football, and later he established links between young people in south London and in East Germany, taking football teams to East Germany on several occasions. He also worked for the Methodist Youth Department at Kings Cross for many years. He and his wife Mavis moved to Morcambe following his retirement from the Ministry. Our thoughts and prayers are with Mavis and his daughters Sandy and Susan.

NEWS FROM AN OLD MEMBER, received by David Hynes via the Church website.

Dear David

I have recently updated my computer and have discovered the delights of revisiting my old home town. I was born in Laurel Grove in February 1923, my brother in 1926 and my sister in 1929—all at the same address. We later moved to Seymour Villas in 1933 in time to see Crystal Palace burn down!

All the family were members of Anerley Methodist Church. My maiden name was Gibbins. My father became a Trustee (we had them in those days), My sister and I were members of the Girls' Life Brigade and my brother was a member of the Boys' Brigade. We all collected money for the overseas missions and I had my name inscribed on the Roll of Honour for collecting over £5 in one year, which was quite difficult to achieve in those days.

I well remember the night our dear church received two direct hits during the war, fortunately leaving the old building which had been the original church so that meetings could still continue. My father had suffered badly from shell shock in the first world war, and the constant bombing by doodle bugs and the later V2s sent him to pieces and we moved him to his brother in the country at Egham in Surrey, where it was reasonably peaceful.

I now live in a very peaceful village called Great Bentley in North East Essex on the borders of Suffolk. We have a small thriving Methodist Church in our village (I was received into Membership at Anerley when I was thirteen). Forgive me for writing but it is so nice to know that the old place is still there.

Goodbye and God Bless, Kathleen Abrey (nee Gibbins)

10. A person died and left £300 to be shared between two fathers and sons. Each received £100. How did they manage it?

Answers can be found on the next page(16)

PENGE FESTIVAL 2008

A CEMETERY WALK

WITH DAVID JOHNSON

SUNDAY 15TH JUNE 2008

Please meet at 2.30pm at the Offices,

Elmers End Cemetery

Free entry

“In Italy for 30 years under the Borgias they had warfare, terror, murder and bloodshed, but they produced Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci and the Renaissance. In Switzerland, they had brotherly love; they had 500 years of democracy and peace and what did they produce? The cuckoo clock.”

Orson Welles

(From *A Bundle of Laughs*, J. John and Mark Stibbe, Monarch Books)

BRAINTEASERS.

1. What relation to you is your father's brother's son's only cousin?
2. If your aunt's brother is not your uncle, what relation is he to you?
3. A man was looking at a picture of a man. He said, "Brothers and sisters have I none, but that man's father is my father's son." Whose picture was he looking at?
4. If Dick's father is Tom's son, what relation is Dick to Tom?
5. Here is a very old riddle, known as "The Riddle of the Sphinx". What has 4 legs in the morning, 2 legs at mid-day and 3 legs in the evening?
6. Another old riddle. Riddle-me riddle-me rote-te-tote, I saw a man in a red coat, a stick in his hand and a stone in his throat, riddle-me riddle-me rote-te-tote. What is it?
7. Yet another old riddle. Little Nancy Etticoat, with a white petticoat, and a red nose; she has no feet or hands, the longer she stands the shorter she grows. What is it?
8. Another old riddle. Two brothers we are, great burdens we bear, on which we are bitterly pressed; the truth is to say, we are full all the day, and empty when we go to rest. What are we?
9. I am driving from Dorking to Tunbridge Wells via minor roads, do not have a map and am not familiar with the road. I come to a cross-roads where the signpost has been blown down and lies at the side of the road. How do I find which road to take?

"Ladies and Gentlemen, the church has left the building"

This year for the first time Gerald Hardy and I went along to the Pentecost festival in Millwall football ground on the 11th May; it is hoped that in 2010 it will be held in Wembley. During the festival the above statement was a recurring statement for both the young and old speakers.

The festival was filled with music including hip hop, which Gerald was bopping along to, praises and people talking about how the Christian faith had changed transformed their lives. This was a far cry from hard wooden pews (or the nice chairs in Anerley) and stuffy services. The festival was bursting out of the church walls and dancing into Millwall football ground. During the week in The Times 8th May the writer writes that the Christian faith is dying because of the empty pews in the church. The Times writer and readers should have come along to Millwall Football ground and seen the huge groups of both young and young out worshipping God.

During the festival we kept praying for our capital and for knife crime which is killing our young people, and also praying for our church, that it will grow. However, many writers that I have researched have argued that the answers to the above prayers can be found that, as Christians, we are more busy **DOING** church rather than **BEING** church. Being church is much more than sets of rituals or the minister, church is the life of Jesus on display through his people.

As an F.E teacher I often have deal with and teach teenagers who feel that they have failed in life, because they have not achieved "good" grades or other problems in their lives. Being a teacher and Christian I witness to these troubled students about the Christian faith through my character and attitude to help make a world a better place; as Paul writes, we are all ministers of the church, we are the church.

Martha Agyei

A MESSAGE FROM MACAU

Andrew Tredinnick has received the following letter from Father Luis Ruiz, whose work in Macau and China is supported by members of our congregation by donations to Joan's "tin" and by the Christian Action Group.

Dear Andrew

Many thanks for your generous donation of £359.15 sent in January via Jesuit Missions to our dear lepers who are so grateful to you for your loving help. I send you this grateful letter which I discovered in my files. It is really nice.

"Dear Fr. Ruiz: We are the old, crippled patients in Wah Peng Rehabilitation Centre. We had been sent here for isolated treatment after getting this disease. Due to lack of medical treatment, most of our hands and legs are worn out, and our place is far from the city with inconvenient transportation and unfertilized. Our life is very difficult. The houses which were built by the government many years ago are old, broken and damaged by dampness. We receive 50 RMB from the government per month and no other support. We depend only on the eggs from the hens, not for eating, but for exchanging some other materials such as salt etc. We have no other way to change our living condition.

In September 1997 you and your co-workers, accompanied by the officials of the Region Government, Health Department and Skin Disease Preventive Centre Directors, came to visit us and it was an unforgettable time. At that time, the weather was extremely hot and it was a rainy season, the rugged road was difficult for walking. You firmly came to visit us and grasped our hands tightly, and showed concern about

METHODIST RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT FUND (MRDF)

MRDF are looking for local Co-ordinators. MRDF Co-ordinators are an integral part of the work MRDF do with their partners in some of the world's poorest communities, as they help to raise awareness of MRDF projects within their Church and Circuit. Many of the people with whom MRDF partners work face challenges every day to gain access to basic services like water, education and healthcare, and the Co-ordinators make small miracles possible by inspiring others to act.

From organising fundraising events to giving talks about the work of the MRDF to passing on worship and study materials, the Co-ordinator's role is an exciting and fulfilling one.

MRDF are looking for MRDF Co-ordinators at Church, Circuit and District level. If you are interested in becoming an MRDF Co-ordinator, either at Church or Circuit level, or you know some one who may be interested, MRDF are holding an MRDF Co-ordinators' Day on 7th June 2008 at Methodist Church House, 25 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5JR.

The Co-ordinators' Day will begin at 10.30am and will feature a preview of the MRDF 2008 Harvest Pack, information on MRDF's work and a session on Fair Trade. Delegates will also get the chance to meet new people and share ideas for promoting MRDF.

Marian has a Co-ordinator's job description and a registration form for the Co-ordinators' Day. For further information contact Debby Wakeham, MRDF, on 020 7467 5132 or visit the website: www.mrdf.org.uk.

DIGITAL DISCIPLESHIP

The Methodist Church website, www.methodist.org.uk, has a new look. The new structure is based on openness—to God, to life, to the world and to you. All the material relates to one of those four headings. It mirrors that the Church must be open to all.

The site is full of images that say something about the topic being introduced. There are affirmations of people in their faith, with real-life stories and personal testimonies to inspire and encourage. Each page also includes a quote linked to the subject matter, which would be something Methodists might want to emphasise. (This may come from the Bible, a prayer, John Wesley or some contemporary Christian writing.) It reinforces that Methodist was born out of people's experience.

The website is a resource for the Church to use in its working life and mission. It has an improved search engine—with a stronger visual structure so people can get to what they want—quickly and easily.

For those who know little about Methodism, there is a concerted attempt to communicate the best of Methodism. This includes a new section on what is distinctive about Methodism.

The website aims to give all users what they are looking for in an easily accessible way, and offer inspiration and encouragement wherever possible. It is a tool to support people in their discipleship and journey with God.

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our health and living condition. Then you distributed to us red envelopes with 50 RMB, and this does not only support our daily needs but also is a great supporter to our spirit. But you did not forget us after your short trip, and we continue to receive your concern and support every month. And also Fr. Peyton from Hong Kong came to visit us and brought us living subsidy for 3 months, and other substances such as sugar, tea, salt etc. from Lai-Kong. District, which were sent by the Director of Preventive Skin Disease Centre, and we received some clothing from you. We heard from our Director that you are very much concerned about our living condition and ready to help us to rebuild our houses, which we are longing for.

“Our dear Fr. Ruiz, you are living in overseas and unknown to us. Many people around us are afraid of our disease, and you are able to give support from thousand miles away, and this makes us feel warm and increases our hope of life. You and your co-workers are very good people in our hearts and we wish to express our gratitude to you all. Now our patients greatly appreciate your kindness and love, and your smile which we will remember in our hearts for ever. May you and your co-workers be peaceful, happy and healthy.

“From the Patients of Skin Disease Preventative Centre, Wah Peng Region, Yunnan Province.”

Be assured of my prayers for you and your dear ones. May the Risen Christ bless you and grant you a renewed life filled with love, hopes, peace and good health.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Father Luis Ruiz.

A WORD IN TIME: ONLINE BIBLE STUDY

In September, as part of the new-look Methodist website an online Bible study called ***A Word in Time*** was launched.

Available to internet users throughout the Connexion (and beyond) ***A Word in Time*** includes a daily Bible reading with commentary, thoughts and questions which empower the ordinary reader to make sense of the passages themselves.

The Bible is a central part of our faith, but with our hectic twenty-first century lifestyles, it's often easy to neglect this essential part of our Christianity. With this exciting new online feature, we are trying to encourage the reader to apply the Bible to their own life and the social and political context in which they live.

Fifty-two writers, from an extensive range of theological and social backgrounds across the Methodist Church, have each contributed a week of studies to the project. Watch out for the blog attached to the commentary, enabling users to post their own comments and thoughts on the featured passage.

The Bible passages are the same as the lectionary in the Methodist Prayer handbook, ***All Things in Christ***. This brings all (40,000 plus) readers of the Prayer Handbook, and indeed all of the Methodist Connexion, together as disciples and students of the Bible.

Go to www.methodistchurch.org.uk/bible and join with the interactive Connexional Community in putting the Bible back where it belongs—at the centre of our daily lives.

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A word in your ear...

- The Methodist Church has now launched ***A Word in Time*** as an audio Bible study

A Word in Time, the online Bible study for daily life, was launched at the beginning of September and has been hugely successful, with around 300 visitors to the site every day.

But now the team have decided to make the studies even more accessible. An audio file of each day's Bible study, and a bigger file with all of the studies for each week can easily be downloaded onto a computer or mp3 player, so that users can listen at a time convenient to them.

Alison Pollard, Web Writer and Researcher and the new voice of ***A Word in Time*** says; 'People find it increasingly difficult to make time to read and reflect on the Bible in today's busy world. ***A Word in Time*** made it easier by giving people access to a Bible study on the internet. Now we've taken it to the next level and you can catch up with your daily Bible study at a time most convenient to you – whether you're cooking dinner, doing your weekly shop or on the daily commute to work.'

Each audio file is available in two formats – a high quality version for those using broadband internet connections and a lower-quality file for those using a dial-up connection. The audio files for past Bible studies are available online in the ***Word in Time*** archives.

The audio Bible studies are also ideal for sharing with those who otherwise might not have access to daily Bible notes, perhaps because of a disability or simply not having access to the internet.