

REGULAR CHURCH USERS

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| Campbell School of Dance
Monday and Friday 4pm to 7pm | Tel. 020 8777 7529 |
| Community of Faith (Brazilian Church)
Saturday 8—10pm | Tel: 07429 263407 |
| Dog Training Monday 7pm - 9pm | Tel. 07939 023 135 |
| Driving School (KIS) Tuesday 7.15pm - 10pm | Tel. 0845 245 0405 |
| JAKAB Fitness & Self Defence
Wednesday 8pm to 10pm | Tel. 020 83015219 |
| Jumoke Holiday Club & Jazzy Juniors
School Holidays Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm; Tuesday 4.30pm-6pm | Tel. 020 8656 8684 |
| Living Vine Ministry
Friday 7pm-9pm; Sunday 6-11am | Tel: 020 0249 2352 |
| Love 2 Dance Friday 6.45pm to 8.45pm | Tel. 020 8244 0512 |
| Only Believe Assembly
Tuesday 7.30pm to 10.30pm; Saturday 2-6pm | Tel.020 8778 0863 |
| Penge Community Pre-School
Monday to Friday 9.15am to 4pm | Tel. 020 8289 6771 |
| Salvation & Deliverance Ministry
Sunday 2pm to 4.30pm | Tel. 020 8683 3094 |
| Tai Chi - Thursday 8pm - 10pm | Tel. 01424 420050 |

UNITY OF SELF COUNSELLING SERVICE

Are you depressed, confused or just would like someone to talk to?

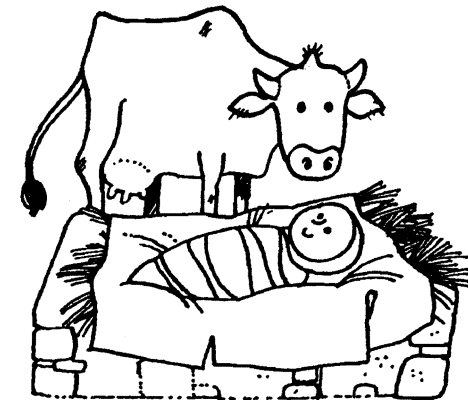
I am a qualified counsellor and supervisor offering a confidential service to adults, children and families.

CALL ME TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT ON 020 8244 0512 or 07956 351511

Email:wendy.blenman@ntlworld.com

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

**ANERLEY CENTRE
ECHO**



CHRISTMAS 2013

The Newsletter of

ANERLEY METHODIST CHURCH

<u>USEFUL CHURCH CONTACTS (as at 01.09.12 All prefix 020</u>		
Church (Minister is not available on this number)		8289 6771
Minister	Rev. Imran Malik	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
NCH Action for Children	Valerie Tredinnick	8658 2347
Christian Aid		
Oxfam	Joan Loring	8659 1658
Penge Forum	Marian Young	8402 6618

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**ALL CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE NEXT MAGAZINE
 SHOULD BE GIVEN TO MARIAN YOUNG BY
 SUNDAY 12TH JANUARY 2014**

Church website: www.anerleymethodist.org

DECEMBER 2013/JANUARY 2014

Volume 45 Number 4

FROM THE MINISTER

In the last few weeks we have been hit by series of natural disasters. A storm hit the UK, Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines, a Tornado in Midwest USA and a deadly cyclone in Sardine, Italy. These natural disasters have killed hundreds of people and erased buildings and homes with lots of special memories.

The Media brings us the news of those natural disasters within minutes, offering the world the opportunities to help those who have suffered. In the past they were even deadlier than they are now because they did not have the technology to give you advance warning. One side effect is that it gives us the illusion that these disasters are happening more frequently. If you watch the BBC news, there are reports of disasters almost every day. However, history tells us that our world has always been like this, the only thing that has changed is that the news reaches us quicker and more in-depth than it used to, and in the future it may be even faster!

My worry is that we might become numb to these kinds of news. From my personal experience, while living in Pakistan I did not pay much attention to killings and suicide bombing because it happens every day. You become numb to it, unless you are directly affected.

However, faced by such tragedies many ask the same old question; if God has power and authority over the earth, why does He allow all the destructive storms, plagues, and disasters? This is such a big

question that cannot be fully addressed in this article but let me wrestle with this question once again with you to gear our thinking into the right direction.

Ok, let us try to imagine a world containing people, where there is literally no suffering and no dying, no poverty and no hunger. Call it the perfect world or magical world. In that world, there are no earthquakes or tsunamis, or none that cause suffering, pain or loss. Earthquakes, tornados and the like, are somehow harmless. If someone robs you or steals your money, God replaces it. If someone tries to hurt you, they fail.

So why didn't God created this perfect magical world instead of ours?

One of the answers is that, suffering helps us to find the good in us and returns us to God. Whenever a tragedy strikes, a community turns to their God and there will be religious leaders on TV to comfort. Many think that Godlessness thrives when everything is perfect in your life. Atheism thrives when sails are smooth. You won't find any atheist like Richard Dawkins, Daniel Dennett or Dan Harris on TV to comfort the inflicted but there will always the bishop, ministers and other religious leaders.

The Bible clearly tells us that God brought some of the natural disasters to bring people back to Him. In Amos God says;

1. 6 "I brought hunger to every city and famine to every town. But still you wouldn't return to me," says the LORD. "I kept the rain from falling when you needed it the most, ruining all your crops. I sent rain on one town but withheld it from another. Rain fell on one field, while another field withered away. 8 People staggered from one town to another for a drink of water, but there was

never enough. But still you wouldn't return to me," says the LORD. "I struck your farms and vineyards with blight and mildew. Locusts devoured all your fig and olive trees. But still you wouldn't return to me," says the LORD. --- "Therefore, I will bring upon you all these further disasters I have announced. Prepare to meet your God as he comes in judgment, you people of Israel!"

Let us be very clear here that those who died in recent disasters were no more sinners than us. Jesus in Luke 13:1-5 tells us that this kind of thinking is wrong but we can take a lesson for us from those disasters.

It says : "At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

The second thing I want to emphasize is that some of the events that cause natural disasters are important for sustaining life on this earth. For example, earthquakes make planet earth alive. Without earthquakes life could become extinct. There will be no mountains, no monsoons, no rivers and no life in the ocean.

The third and most important thing is that this earth is a temporarily place for us. God made this earth a place where we can prepare ourselves to live for eternity with him. If you are building a temporary accommodation or putting up a tent then you would not hire architects and builders to lay permanent foundations. But there is a permanent place for us where there will be no suffering, no pain

and no natural disaster. God has prepared that magical place for us. So those who ask why God did not create for us a world free of suffering. My answer would be that yes he has, but that place is not the earth. Planet earth is a temporary place for us but there is something more permanent for us: Eternal life without any pain, suffering or loss.

So let us not get confused by the questions that cannot make sense in a temporary place but there is a place for us without any kind of natural disasters or manmade destruction. Our earthly bodies, our building and church building are temporary. Let's not be obsessed by the things that are temporary but remain focused on the things that are to come yet.

God bless,

Imran

ROUND THE FAMILY

Our thoughts are with Peter Boreham, whose father died in October. Please remember him in your prayers, together with Louise Oppong and Ken Waterhouse, both recovering from surgery.

We send our congratulations to Margaret Boreham on the birth of a grandson, Benjamin David, at the beginning of November. Congratulations also Ronnie Butler who has received a certificate for completing a course on Digital Photography at Lambeth College, and has just finished a course on Adobe Illustrator at South Thames College.

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

Marian

Christmas Post Boxes

The two Post Boxes will be available in the Entrance Hall from Sunday 1st December. The **final posting date** for both boxes is **Sunday 15th December**, and distribution of cards in the **Local Box** will take place immediately following the **6.30pm Carol Service** that evening. Please note that because of the way Christmas falls this year there will only be **three Sundays** on which to post your cards.

Tips for items going into the **Local Box**:

- Check that all your cards are for people who are members or who attend Church services.
- Help the sorter by writing the recipients' Christian names **and** surnames on the envelopes.
- Putting your bundle of cards into alphabetical order (surnames) is very helpful.

Offers to assist with the distribution, especially to people not at the Carol Service, will be much appreciated.

The **Country Box** must only be used for the people listed below:

Rose Bateman; Eddie Jackson; Pam & Tony Clewes;
Philip & Laurel Luscombe; Andrew & Helen Maguire;
Graham & Jenny Cocking; Len & Brenda Maskell;
Dave & Pat Dent; Stephen & Angela Maunder;
Abraham Doku; Chris & Deirdre Metcalfe; Muriel French;
Sandra Clifton; Brenda Pooley; Andrew Goodhead;
Patricia Sakyi, Gerald Hardy; Judy & Alan Turner-Smith

We do invite donations to St. Christopher's Hospice. These can be placed in the plate alongside or handed directly to me. Last year net receipts (i.e. after paying the postage on the Country Box items) totalled £115.50. Let's see if we can do even better this year.

Andrew T.

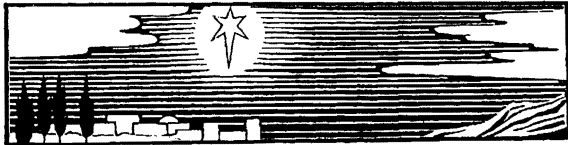
CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 8th December Gift Service 11am
 Gifts will be given to St. Christopher's
 Candle Project.

Sunday 15th December Carol Service 6.30pm

Tuesday 24th December Christmas Eve Communion
 9.15pm

Wednesday 25th December Christmas Day All Age Worship
 9.15am



FIREWORK PARTY

Once again a group of adults and children gathered at the home of Valerie and Andrew for the annual firework party. It was good to see so many people there, including our Minister Imran, Sarah, Rohan and Roshan. Also joining us were Stella and Barry Taylor from Swanley, and Valerie and Andrew's neighbour Barbara. As usual Andrew had a very good selection of fireworks, including some spectacular aerial ones. The display was followed by the usual delicious food, including old favourites such as hot dogs and jacket potatoes. An evening of fun and fellowship much enjoyed by all.

Thanks to Valerie and Andrew for once again arranging a very enjoyable evening.

Joan Loring

COOKERY CORNER

Late Summer Pudding

Serves 6; Preparation Time 25 minutes plus chilling.
 Cooking time – 10 minutes.

Ingredients

450g (1 lb) mixed fruits (blackcurrants, blackberries, redcurrants, raspberries, gooseberries—can be used separately)
 2 tablespoons water
 150g (5oz) sugar
 175g (6oz) white bread, thinly sliced
 Whipped cream to serve

Method

1. Prepare and wash fruit.
2. Stir the water and sugar together
3. Bring to the boil, add the fruits and stew gently for 5-10 minutes until they are soft but retain their shape.
4. Cut the crusts from the bread, line the base and sides of a 1½ pint pudding basin with the slices so that there are no spaces between them.
5. Pour in the fruit and completely cover with more bread.
6. Place a saucer with a weight on it on top of the pudding and refrigerate overnight.
7. Tip out next day and serve with whipped cream.

Ann Vickery

NEWS FROM OXFAM

Joan Loring, who was our Pledged Gift collector, has received the following letter from Oxfam:

"Thank you very much for your Pledged giving donation to Oxfam of £138..."

Tag your Bag is a Gift Aid scheme which Oxfam run within their shops. Registering for the scheme means HM Revenue and Customs allows Oxfam to claim the Gift Aid on any goods that you bring into your local Oxfam shop....

How Tag Your Bag works:-

1. Sign up to Tag Your Bag. To collect Nectar Points, enter your card details and you'll get 100 points....
2. You'll receive your personalised tags in the post. Donate your items to an Oxfam shop, making sure that your tag is securely on your bag of goods.
3. We track the items so that when they sell you'll get 2 Nectar points for every £1 you raise and they'll be worth 25% more to Oxfam thanks to Gift Aid. If they don't sell they'll be recycled or re-used, so they'll still help Oxfam fight poverty.
4. You can donate your points back to Oxfam. Visit nectar.com to spend your points on a range of Oxfam Unwrapped items from safe drinking water to training a teacher.
5. The money your unwanted goods raise, along with the money we collect from Gift Aid will help to build water pumps, dig vegetable plots, send children to school and give families a better future.

If you would like to sign up to Tag Your Bag you can find more information on the Oxfam website—www.oxfam.org.uk. Alternatively you can call the Oxfam Supporter Relations team on 0300 200 1300 or talk to a volunteer at our shops.

Thank you for your support...
Sarah Horth, Supporter Relations"

Lewisham Plus Credit Union

Whether you want to save, borrow, or open a current account, Lewisham Plus Credit Union offers a friendly and local financial service for people who live, work or study in Lewisham or Bromley. Lewisham Plus is a mutual society that exists for its members, meaning that its aim is to provide the best possible service to its members, rather than to maximise profits. The credit union offers the following main services:

Savings accounts

You can save for special occasions, holidays, cars or home improvements. Savings can also be used to build a 'rainy day' fund, making it less likely that you'll run in to trouble if something unexpected happens.

Loans

All Lewisham Plus members can apply for a loan, which will be considered based on your personal circumstances. The credit union encourages its members to save, and the more you save, the larger the loan you can apply for. Larger loans at better (lower) rates are offered to those who have a good savings record.

If you are unable to borrow from your own bank or building society, it's likely that any credit union loan will be at a much better rate than most of the higher cost alternatives – such as 'pay day' loans and doorstep lenders." Some of the smaller (unsecured) loans from Lewisham Plus Credit Union can also work out cheaper than the cost of a similar loan from a high street bank. It's important that you make comparisons, as interest rates and annual percentage rates (APRs) can vary.

Lewisham Plus now offers a Save & Borrow loan of up to £600. To apply for any service provided by the credit union you must first become a member. Every resident living in Lewisham is eligible to join. You can then apply for a loan. The Loan application will be assessed and approved if you have sufficient disposable income to repay the loan.

Credit Union Current Accounts (CUCA)

The current account service could help you to manage your fi-

nances. This account allows you to set up standing orders and direct debits for your regular payments. There is an administration charge of £1.25 per week (£ 5.42 a month)

Credit Union Budget Accounts (CUBA)

This is a new account which allows you to put aside some of your income for your rent, council tax and any credit union loan - then use the rest of your money as you need to. There is a £5 monthly charge for the rent payment service.

Pre-payment card

This is a new Lewisham Plus service and allows you to choose how much you load on to your card each week or month, to help you to budget. The Pre-paid card can be used in conjunction with your savings account – any savings can be transferred on the same day to your card. It does not allow for any overdraft facility – you can only spend the funds on the card. This could be very useful for customers who claim benefits when Universal Credit starts in 2014 - as Universal Credit will be paid to most claimants once month. The card can be used to buy things in the same way as debit or credit card. There is a one-off £3.50 charge for the card. After that, it costs 75p to withdraw money from a cash point and 50p to load money onto the card. 'Cash back' is free.

How do I join?

To join Lewisham Plus Credit Union you will need to visit a branch with proof of your address (tenancy letter or utility bill), personal identification (driving licence or passport), and your £5 fee. (£3 for membership and £2 for your savings account). Junior members (under 16 years) can also join and this helps them to develop a good savings habit.

Is it safe?

Lewisham Plus Credit Union is owned and operated by its members for its members. It is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. This means that savings (of up to £85,000) are protected by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme, as with any British bank or building society.

How do I get in touch with Lewisham Plus?

You can call 020 8778 4738, email on admin@pluscu.co.uk or visit

one of the branches:

Sydenham Branch (HQ), 262 Kirkdale, Sydenham SE26 4RS

New Cross branch, 165 New Cross Rd. New Cross, SE14 5DG

The Green Man branch, 355 Bromley Road, London SE6 2RP

(This branch will be open later this year)

The branches open from 9.30 to 13.00 hours on weekdays – Monday to Friday. The main Sydenham Branch also opens on Friday evening from 19.30 to 21.00 and Saturday mornings from 10.00 to 12.00.

There are other credit unions and other financial services, so please check out what else is on offer. For example, you could ask the Citizens Advice Bureau for help and this could be especially useful if you have financial problems and debt. You could also try an online information service such as which.co.uk or findyourcreditunion.co.uk.

Lewisham Plus Credit Union is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority. **Firm number 213588.**

JMA AWARDS

On 28th October we held our JMA Service when our JMA collectors were awarded their certificates for their collections for 2011-12. Dinah Anaman, our JMA secretary, reported that during the year a total of £645.05 had been collected for JMA, slightly less than last year's total of £655.04, but a good sum nevertheless. Congratulations to all our collectors. If you would like to give to any of the children on a regular basis, please speak to Dinah.



Penge Community Pre-School

Leader: Sarah Batchelor Anerley Methodist Church

Deputy Leader: Sue Charlesworth Oakfield Road

SENCO: Dawn McConochie Anerley SE20 8QA

Ofsted Inspected

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DECEMBER

Mon 2nd Christian Action Group 8pm at 163 Clock House Road. Speaker: Lilian Barth

Wed 4th Wednesday Club 8pm Games Evening

Sun 8th Gift Service 11am led by Rev. Imran Malik

Wed 11th Wednesday Club 8pm Christmas Readings

Sun 15th Carol Service 6.30pm led by Valerie Tredinnick

Wed 18th Wednesday Club 8pm Christmas Crackers

Tue 24th Christmas Eve Communion 9.15pm

Wed 25th Christmas Day All Age Worship 9.15 am

JANUARY

Wed 1st New Year's Day—No Wednesday Club

Sun 5th Covenant Service 11am

Wed 8th Wednesday Club 8pm Social Evening at 32 Lloyds Way

Sun 12th ALL MAGAZINE ARTICLES TO MARIAN TODAY

Mon 13th Christian Action Group 8pm at 32 Lloyds Way – Business Meeting

Wed 15th Wednesday Club 8pm Quiz of the Year

Thur 16th Finance Committee Meeting 8pm at 19 Felmingham Road

Tue 21st Circuit Meeting 7.45pm at Burnt Ash Methodist Church

Wed 22nd Wednesday Club 8pm .Dominoes

Thur 23rd Stewards' Meeting 8pm at 4 Garden Road

Wed 29th Wednesday Club 8pm Make a Pinhole Camera

FEBRUARY

Wed 5th Wednesday Club 8pm Surprise Evening

Thur 6th Church Council 8pm

Tue 11th Christian Action Group 8pm at 5 Percy Road
Speaker: Rev. Andrew Goodhead

Thur 20th Pastoral Sub-Committee meeting 8pm at the Church

Morning Services are held every Sunday at 11am. During December Holy Communion will be celebrated on the 22nd, and All Age Worship will take place on 8th (Gift Service) and 28th. In addition, Christmas Day will be All Age Worship (9.15am). In January Holy Communion will be celebrated on 5th (Covenant Service) and All Age Worship is on 26th

Evening Services are usually held at the church on the 2nd (HC) and 4th Sundays of each month at 6.30pm. However, during December the evening services will be on 8th (Holy Communion) and 15th (Carol Service). Holy Communion will also be celebrated on Christmas Eve (9.15pm)