

# ANERLEY CENTRE ECHO



## LENT 2018

The Newsletter of

**ANERLEY METHODIST CHURCH**

Oakfield Road

Anerley

London SE20 8QA

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Property Steward	David Hynes	8289 3524
Property Bookings	David Hynes	8289 3524
Baptismal/Cradle Roll	Sandra Hynes	8289 3524
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Christian Action Group	Valerie & Andrew Tredinnick	8658 2347
Wednesday Club	Marian Young	8402 6618
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**ALL CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE NEXT MAGAZINE  
SHOULD BE GIVEN TO MARIAN YOUNG BY SUNDAY  
11TH MARCH 2018**

**Church website: [www.anerleymethodist.org](http://www.anerleymethodist.org)**

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## **FROM THE MINISTER**

**Friends,**

**I greet you all in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ!**

As I put my thoughts together for this Lent edition of our newsletter, there is a an uncanny feeling of not being fully recovered from Christmas!

But the reality is, that Christmas is now a distant memory and we must make preparations for Lent. During Lent, the Church sets before us Jesus' reflections on the three great cardinal works of the spiritual life: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. We are invited to become involved in all three, so it is only right that we should reflect on Jesus' advice which is the word of God for us today.

Before speaking on any of the three, Jesus first gives an opening warning about practising piety in order to be seen by people, about being publicly pious while keeping a wandering eye alert on audience reaction. Jesus' position is unambiguous: he's against it. He's not against people sharing their light with others, for the point of that is to give glory to God. He's against people using religion to direct attention to themselves.

### **Prayer**

The Jews were required to pray at set times of the day: at nine in the morning, at noontime, and at three in the afternoon. Wherever they were, they were supposed to stop, stretch out their arms with hands facing heavenwards, and bow their heads. But some people would make sure that it so happened that they were on a top step or at a busy street corner on the stroke of noon, so that they could do a muscular demonstration of fidelity in public, ensuring that their prayers were loud and long. Jesus doesn't think much of posturing

prayers which stop the traffic and which are calculated for home consumption, when people might confuse length with fidelity, or confuse fluency with sincerity.

The point about prayer is that it is addressed to the Father, not to those who have their tape recorders switched on. And Jesus gives the test of true prayer: that it is an activity that goes on in the secret places of our lives, when the audience has all gone home, when the tape recorders are off, when our doors are closed, and when our hearts are open to the Father who loves us. As one of the great rabbis put it: "God says to Israel, pray in the synagogue of your city; if you cannot, pray in your bed; if you cannot, commune with your heart and be still."

### **Fasting**

Like prayer, fasting was an important part of the spiritual tradition and was a sign of repentance. Fasting was always linked to repentance: if it is not, it can be reduced simply to the theology of weight-watchers. Jesus criticises those who make sure that their faces look sufficiently collapsed to leave nobody in any doubt that their owners are on the job. In Palestine the two days of fasting were Monday and Thursday, which also happened to be the market days. People could use the market place to advertise their religious fervour. Jesus says no to this. Undertaker faces are no guarantee of authentic Christianity. Your face should look as if you have rented the sun. Again, what is important is that God knows what you do.

What are we to fast from? St John Chrysostom wrote: "I tell you it is possible to fast while not fasting. Is this a riddle? By enjoying food while having no taste for sin. That is a better kind of fasting." We are first obliged to fast from sin. There is no point in missing dinner and spending the evening demolishing our neighbour. We must starve our sins before we starve our stomachs, and that will keep fasting linked to repentance.

### **Almsgiving**

When it comes to giving alms to the poor, Jesus thinks little of those who make sure that the trumpet sounds first, that people are

paying attention before the gift is given. Jesus gives the maxim: “your left hand must not know what your right hand is doing”. In the Temple there was a room called the Chamber of the Silent, where people could atone for their sins by making offerings anonymously, from which those living in poverty could be helped secretly. This is the kind of giving approved by Jesus: it is quiet and it is for the benefit of those who suffer in poverty.

What can we give? We should share the most precious gifts we have received: love, compassion, understanding and forgiveness. That is what forgiveness is for – it is for giving. “With all his giving, he never gives himself.” We are asked to give ourselves, and in that we have the marvellous example of Jesus. He gave generously of himself: he was at great pains to share with others his time, his energy, his many gifts. In the end he gave himself away and shares with us his body and blood.

The Church asks us at the beginning of Lent to renew our own lives in the great spiritual works of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, and to heed Jesus’ advice. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, we will begin the season by receiving ashes. This is a sign that we are willing to undertake the Gospel way of life. When we receive the ashes we hear again the first words of Jesus in Mark’s Gospel: “Repent, believe in the Gospel.” So let us look forward to our Lent in faithfulness.

## PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

That Lent will be a time of truth, a time of peace, and a time of justice for all peoples. We pray to the Lord. **Turn to us with mercy, Lord.**

**Abe**



## ROUND THE FAMILY

Please remember in your prayers Joan Loring, who has not been too well recently and Thomas Tchine awaiting further treatment.

Our services over the Christmas period were very enjoyable and well attended. . Our Gift Service was arranged by the Junior Church and they all participated in the Service. Our Carol Service followed the tradition of readings and carols, involving members of the congregation. The Christmas Eve Communion provided a period of reflection and the Christmas Day service was well-attended, with several visitors.

The Church received Christmas and New Year greetings from the Rev. Graham Cocking, Rev. Philip and Laurel Luscombe, Rev. Judy and Alan Turner-Smith, Ronnie Butler, Abraham Doku, Joyce and Eddie Graham in Jamaica Joan Loring, McPhene Pluck, Kathleen and Margaret Seale, Dawn Watts, Dawn and Sarah from Pre-School, Wesley Hall Methodist Church and Demelza Hospice, where we donated the gifts from our Gift Service; Demelza replied saying "Just to say a big thank you for your donation of arts and crafts material for Demelza. I'm sure our children will make great use of them "

Marian



**OXFAM**

Thanks to all our Pledged Givers.

In 2017 I was able to send £428.50 to Oxfam.

I have tried to write regular updates in the Magazine on the current work that Oxfam are involved in.

At the end of the year I received a letter from Head Office detailing some of the differences to people's lives that your support has helped. Whether it is through man-made catastrophes such as the war in Yemen, natural disasters such as Hurricanes Irma and Maria or the devastating earthquakes in Mexico, Oxfam have been able to provide the necessary life-saving shelter and resources to those who need it.

If you wish to become a Pledged Giver but would like some background information on Oxfam's work I have a few back copies of their Newsletter detailing some of the work they are involved in.

Thank you again for your interest and support.

Valerie

**RETIRING COLLECTIONS DURING FEBRUARY**

Our retiring collections at Communion Services during February will be for the Missionary Aviation Fellowship. MAF enable thousands of aid, relief and mission projects in remote areas, working in partnership with hundreds of other Christian and relief organisations. For further details see their website <https://www.maf-uk.org/>

## **London District Chairs' New Year Message 2018**

Dear Friends,

This last year has been a challenging one for the many people in the life of the District. The events over the summer in particular with the terrorist attacks within London and the fire at Grenfell Tower is still etched in many people's minds and for those who have been directly affected by these events life will never be the same for them, their families and communities, and we continue to hold those communities in our prayers.

In the midst of the all horror we have seen in the last year within our communities, it has been wonderful for us to be able to get out and about across the District. We have been invited and participated in national, ecumenical, interfaith events, alongside meetings and events in the areas of affordable housing, homelessness, refugees and migration. However one of the greatest joys for us is when local churches and circuits within the District ask us to preach, share in a staff meeting, CLT meeting or for us to attend a circuit meeting, where we hear stories of mission and discipleship in the ordinary things of life. It is encouraging to hear the stories of how people's lives are transformed by love the of Christ and that Churches are working together for the sake of the Kingdom. Please continue to invite us to share in your good news stories in your church or circuit. It is great to be out and about sharing with you in your context.

The New Year can often bring a mixed bag of emotions and memories for many of us. Some may have just experienced the best year ever and look forward to an even greater one looming ahead. Others may have just trudged through one



deep struggle after another. The fresh calendar year brings desperate hope for things to be better, with an ache for the still-fresh wounds to slowly begin their process of healing.

Whether you have just walked through the greatest year of your life, or are incredibly glad to see this one finally over, one truth still rings clear amidst it all. You are not alone. Not ever.

Our God is a “with us” God. On the heels of the celebration of the birth of our King, that reminder has the power to carry us right into a fresh, new start. He is Immanuel, God with us. Though things and people around us shift and change, our God never changes.

Nigel, Micky and Jongi.

### **New Superintendent Minister**

I am pleased to announce that Rev. Richard Grocott will be joining us next September as our new Superintendent Minister with pastoral responsibility for Eltham Park and Lewisham churches. Richard is currently stationed in the Battersea and Wandle Valley circuit. Richard has been a Presbyteral minister for 27 years, including ten as superintendent. He has served in a variety of locations from rural ministry and market towns to London and, further afield, Italy. He is married to Carol, who works in the London district office. There will be a welcome service for Richard next summer.

Garry Young, Senior Circuit Steward

## **ST. CHRISTOPHER'S HOSPICE**

I was very interested to read in the Autumn edition of the Echo the article about the 50th Anniversary of the Opening of St. Christopher's Hospice. This happened of course when I was Minister at Anerley and Wesley Hall and I represented the Methodist Church at it. With the other Visiting Chaplains (Father Nigel Larn of Sydenham R.C.Church and an Anglican unknown to me - a friend of Dame Cicely's) I had the honour of being introduced to Princess Alexandra. I used to visit the Free Church patients there regularly until a full-time Chaplain was appointed and I knew Dame Cicely. It is good to know that the Hospice is still continuing its wonderful ministry.

Gordon Lemmon

## **LENT STUDIES 2018**

For our Lenten Study, we will be following the Bible study resource on the theme of "Moving Stories". I hope that by following this, we will learn something about the moving stories within our very churches. The six items will be:-

1. Phoebe—commended as she leaves to go to a new community.
2. Hagar—cast out to travel with Ishmael.
3. Abram and Sarai—obeying God's call to travel.
4. Joseph—trafficked as a slave sold by his brothers.
5. Paul and the Ethiopian eunuch.
6. Jesus— entry into Jerusalem.

It is anticipated that each session will include discussions and questions to enable reflection and sharing of our own moving stories. All are welcomed and I look forward to embarking on this journey with you!

Abe

(Mondays at 8pm. 19th February through to 26th March)

## **NEWS FROM RICCI SOCIAL SERVICES**

This year we celebrated our 30 years' anniversary. The theme of our anniversary was "Sharing joy by building communion",. In this anniversary we celebrated Fr. Luis Ruiz SJ first encounter with persons affected by leprosy (PALs) in Taikam island, Guangdong province. This first encounter was the beginning of Ricci Social Services, a social services network created by Fr. Ruiz to bring relief, dignity and social justice to the poor and marginalised people in mainland China and Macau. Since then, Ricci Social Services has started a long learning journey that has brought us to the most remote places in China.

In this journey, we have to learn how to be with the people we serve, how to think together with them, how to act together with them and how to learn together with them. To do so, we also have to learn how to collaborate and work with others.....

Only those who love can understand the immense treasures that we have found along this 30 years journey. Because love transforms everybody and everything, Due to love, receivers become givers, and givers become also receivers. This has been our daily experience in Ricci Social Services in China. The experiences of a love that is incarnated, shared and that has transformed and continues transforming thousands of persons and ourselves. They mystery of a Love that took flesh to become Emmanuel, God with us!.

Fernando Azpiroz SJ

Director, Ricci Social Services

Taken from Encounter, the RSS newsletter; the December edition is available to read on the noticeboard in the Church vestibule.

## COOKERY CORNER

### Basic Recipe for Burgers

#### Ingredients

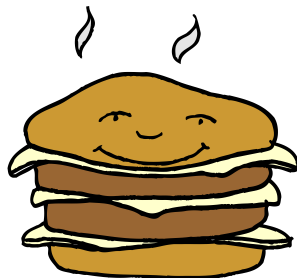
450gr (1lb) minced beef	1 large egg (beaten)
75gr. (3 oz) white or brown breadcrumbs	
1 level teaspn. dried parsley	1 tablespn. oil
1 level teaspn. dried parsley	

#### Method

1. Put the minced beef in a large bowl, stir in the bread-crumbs and herbs.
2. Add the beaten egg to bind the ingredients together.
3. With lightly floured hands, shape into 4 large or 8 small burgers.
4. Heat the oil in a frying pan, fry the burgers for 10 minutes each side with the pan covered, on a low gas.
5. Drain them on kitchen paper and serve as desired.

Freezing note: Freeze individually wrapped for 4 to 6 weeks; cook from frozen.

Ann Vickery



## **INTROIT**

The introit for the next four months (starting on Sunday 4th February) will be as follows:-

Come, Host of heaven's high dwelling place,  
come earth's disputed guest;  
find in this house a welcome home,  
stay here and take your rest.

Bless and inspire those gathered here  
With patience, hope and peace  
And all the joys that know the depth  
In which all sorrows cease.

John L. Bell and Graham Maule  
Singing the Faith no. 680  
*CCLI 221943*



## **WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

**FRIDAY 2nd MARCH 2018**

A Service prepared by Christian Women of

Suriname, South America

"All God's creation is very good"

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



## **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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**REGULAR CHURCH USERS**

- Amaze Penge** Tuesday 10am-12 noon, term time Tel. 07882 760 828
- Campbell School of Dance** Friday 4pm—7pm Tel. 020 8777 7529
- Community of Faith (Brazilian Church)** Tel. 07429 263 407  
Saturday 6pm –10pm
- Dog Training** Monday 7pm - 9pm Tel. 07939 023 135
- Harlequins Theatre School** Monday 4pm— 6.30pm Tel. 07773 066 645
- Hill Dance Academy** Tel: 07772 199 103  
Tuesday 4.30pm-8.30pm; Saturday 11am-3pm
- Jumoke After School Club & Jazzy Juniors** Tel. 020 8656 8684  
School Holidays Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm, Term time 4.pm—6pm  
Breakfast Club: Term Time Monday to Friday 7.30am—8.30am
- LINGK Fellowship** Sunday 1—4pm Tel: 07939 367 333
- Only Believe Assembly** Tues. 7.30 to –10.30pm Tel.020 8778 0863
- Penge Community Pre-School** Tel. 020 8289 6771  
Monday to Friday 9.15am to 4pm
- Salvation & Deliverance Ministry** Tel. 020 8683 3094  
Sunday 2pm to 4.30pm;
- Tai Chi** - Thursday 8pm - 10pm Tel. 01424 420 050

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**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 351 511**

**Email:wendy.blenman@ntlworld.com**

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



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### FEBRUARY

Tue 6th	Circuit Meeting 7.45pm at Hither Green Methodist Church
Wed 7 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday Club 8pm Dominoes
Mon 12th	Christian Action Group 8pm at 163 Clock House Road Speaker: Major Sue Robinson, Penge Salvation Army
Wed 14 <sup>th</sup>	No Wednesday Club—Ash Wednesday Service
Mon 19th	Lent Studies 8pm in Side Hall —Phoebe
Tue 20th	Church Council 8pm at the Church Side Hall

### PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE

Wed 21st	Wednesday Club 8pm Surprise Evening
Sun 25th	All Age Worship 11am led by the Worship Leaders
Mon 26th	Lent Studies 8pm in Side Hall—Hagar
Wed 28th	Wednesday Club 8pm Talk on the Thames Path

### MARCH

Fri 2nd	Women's World Day of Prayer 7.30pm at St. John's Church, Penge
Mon 5th	Lent Studies 8pm in Side Hall—Abram and Sarai
Wed 7 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday Club 8pm
Sun 11th	Mothering Sunday Service 11am
Sun 11 <sup>th</sup>	MAGAZINE ITEMS TO BE GIVEN TO MARIAN!
Mon 12th	Lent Studies 8pm in the Side Hall—Joseph

Tue 13 <sup>th</sup>	Christian Action Group 8pm at 103 Birchanger Road, Speaker: Rev. Abe Konadu-Yiadom
Wed 14 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday Club 8pm
Mon 19th	Lent Studies 8pm in the Side Hall - Paul
Tue 20th	Pastoral Committee Meeting 7.45pm at 37 Ever-sley Road, Se19
Wed 21 <sup>st</sup>	Wednesday Club 8pm
Sat 24th	Special Saturday 10am– 2.30pm. More details later
Sun 25th	Palm Sunday Service 11am
Mon 26th	Lent Studies 8pm in Side Hall - Jesus
Wed 28th	Wednesday Club 8pm
Thur 29th	Maundy Thursday
Fri 30th	Good Friday service 9.15 am

### APRIL

Sun 1st	Easter Sunday
Sun 22nd	Church Annual General Meeting after Morning Service

Morning services are held every Sunday at 11am. Holy Communion is usually celebrated on the 3rd Sunday of the month and All Age Worship usually takes place on the 4th Sunday.

Evening Services are usually held at the church on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month at 6.30pm, and Holy Communion is usually celebrated on the 2nd Sunday.

A Prayer Meeting is held at the Church every Thursday morning between 10am and 11.30am. Drop in and out as you wish.