

ANERLEY CENTRE ECHO



CHRISTMAS 2015

The Newsletter of
ANERLEY METHODIST CHURCH
Oakfield Road
Anerley
London SE20 8QA

<u>USEFUL CHURCH CONTACTS (as at 01.09.14)</u> All prefix 020		
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 Treasurer	Sandra Hynes	8289 3524
Junior Missionary Association	Dinah Anaman	7274 6294
NCH Action for Children	Valerie Tredinnick	8658 2347
Christian Aid	Julie Taylor	8778 5881
Oxfam	Valerie Tredinnick	8658 2347
Penge Forum	Marian Young	8402 6618

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**ALL CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE NEXT MAGAZINE
 SHOULD BE GIVEN TO MARIAN YOUNG BY
SUNDAY 10TH JANUARY 2016**

Church website: www.anerleymethodist.org

DECEMBER 2015/JANUARY 2016**Volume 47 Number 4****FROM THE MINISTER**

The season of Christmas is upon us once more, an opportunity to capture afresh the spirit of the season and to celebrate the birth of our Saviour. Most importantly Christmas offers us an opportunity to be thankful for the very precious, costly and living gift of God to us in Jesus Christ.

During this season many material gifts are received and given to share our appreciation and love for each other. On top of that, buying a meaningful gift for someone is always a difficult task and so it should be. However, often we give and receive gifts because of our social protocols or seasonal rituals and expectations. Due to this we often end up buying a bad gift. A bad gift is bad because it has been bought for bad reasons. If you pause here to think I am sure you will find plenty of bad reasons amongst the good ones when you are giving a gift.

I am sure all of us can recall some of those bad gifts we have received over the years. But you still have to say to the giver "thank you" and "it is a well thought and useful gift". But often they end up in the closet, returned to the shop, taken to a charity shop or passed on to someone who is less important to us. I still have some of those bad gifts lying around in my office.

By now you might be wondering what makes a good gift. In my understanding a good gift is unexpected, free from our own preconceptions, social pressures, motives and compulsions. When you have bought a gift with freedom, freedom from social protocols, rituals and expectation then it is going to be a very special gift. Then it is not going to be a gift among 20 other bad gifts.

My extended family thinks that children should have lots of gifts to unwrap on Christmas day because it is fun to unwrap lots of presents. When it comes to unwrap the presents they are so busy having fun with the unwrapping that they desperately want to open the next one before they are forced to say thank you to Grandma for the lovely present. Then you will hear the comments "Oh they are having more fun playing with the wrapping paper, why bother buying those presents". In these moments gifts have lost their meaning and are reduced to fun for children and entertainment for the adults.

One of my lecturers at Cliff College said "a good gift should cost you much and fill the receiver with stillness, awe, wonder, thankfulness and remind you of your dependence on each other and God". It should be an experience, an encounter, a transcendent moment, not an occasion. It should help to understand our dependence on each other for wellbeing. There are plenty other things you can do for fun and entertainment but make giving and receiving special for yourself and others. Let it change people's lives as God's gift in Christ is still doing. Enjoy this Christmas season as much as you can but give and receive wisely. May the gift of God in baby Jesus help us to be still and fill us with awe and wonder this Christmas. Amen

Imran



ROUND THE FAMILY

Please remember in your prayers Rose Acheampong, whose sister has died in Ghana; Sara Hynes, the daughter-in-law of Dave and Sandra, who is recovering from major surgery and having a difficult time with chemotherapy; and Selina Williams' son Michael as he makes a slow recovery from his car accident.

Congratulations to Aaron and Nimasha Yusuf on the birth of Neave Ann, another granddaughter for Anita Yusuf. Congratulations also to Wendy Blenman on her marriage to Calvin in October in St. Lucia: they will have a Wedding Blessing at our church in December.

We send our best wishes to Richard Anaman, who has gone to work in America, and wish him success in the music industry!

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

Marian

JMA AWARDS

On 25th October we held our JMA Service when our JMA collectors were awarded their certificates for their collections for 2014-15. Dinah Anaman, our JMA secretary, reported that during the year a total of £566.73 had been collected for JMA, a drop of £137.68 from the year before. Congratulations to all our collectors nevertheless. If you would like to help us raise our totals again next year by giving to any of the children on a regular basis, please speak to Dinah.

Christmas Post Boxes

The two Post Boxes will be available in the Entrance Hall from Sunday 29th November. The **final posting dates** are as follows:

Country Box – 6.30pm Sunday 13th December

Local Box – 11am Sunday 20th December

Please ensure that **only** items for the people listed below are placed in the **Country Box**:

Rose Bateman Gerald Hardy Andrew Goodhead

Pam & Tony Clewes Philip & Laurel Luscombe Sandra Clifton

Andrew & Helen Maguire Graham Cocking Len & Brenda Maskell

Dave & Pat Dent Stephen & Angela Maunder Abraham Doku

Deirdre Metcalfe Muriel French Brenda Pooley

Patricia Sakyi Judy & Alan Turner-Smith

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

Check that your cards are for members or people who attend Church services/activities regularly (if you don't see them at Church neither does the postman!).

Help the postman by writing the recipients' Christian names **and** surnames on the envelopes (e.g. we have two Roses and two Hilarys)

Bundling your cards with an elastic band and sorted alphabetically (by surname) is very helpful.

If you can assist with distribution please have a word with me.

We do invite donations to St. Christopher's Hospice. These can be placed in the plate beside the boxes or handed directly to me. Please be as generous as you can.

Andrew T.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 6th December Gift Service 11am
Gifts of craft items will be welcomed
for Demelza Children's Hospice

Sunday 13th December Carol Service 6.30pm.

Thursday 24th December Christmas Eve Communion
9.15pm

Friday 25th December Christmas Day All Age Worship
9.15am

150th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

As our Anniversary year draws to a close, we have for sale an Anniversary calendar, priced £7, which contains photos of events and services during the year. They are selling quickly, so snap up your copy now!

On 3rd October we had a very enjoyable concert by Soul Sanctuary, led by our very own Clarence Hunte. We had many appreciative comments for the singing, and for the fish and chip supper!

Two more former Ministers, the Rev. Judy Turner-Smith and the Rev. Dr. Philip Luscombe, returned in October and November respectively to take a morning service, and it was good to see Judy and Alan, and Philip and Laurel again and to catch up with what has been happening since they were last with us.

Special Saturdays at Anerley Methodist Church in 2016

Sunday is a special day for all Christians. It is the day when we meet together formally at church to worship God. Sundays are busy. Consequently, we do not always have time to get to know each other properly or to explore, share, and develop different aspects of our faith and Christian journey.

In 2016 we will be stepping out in faith and doing something completely new at Anerley Methodist Church on a **Saturday**. Every couple of months, a special Christian-focussed ‘event’ will be held at church. All will be invited to participate. Some ‘events’ will be especially suitable for all age groups (including children and young people) and will therefore be inter-generational.

Whilst some events will actively encourage participation, there will be absolutely no pressure to join in. You will be welcome just to come along and ‘be there’ and have fellowship with other members of the church family. Most of our events will be ‘drop in’ events. You can stay for as long as you like! Children attending must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

By the time this article is read, we will probably already have had ‘Prayer Saturday’ (Saturday November 28th) at our church – an informal ‘drop in’ opportunity to focus on prayer in the quietness of our peaceful Chapel.

On January 30th 2016 we are planning ‘**Song Saturday**’. Come along for the chance to sing tuneful Christian songs in an informal, relaxing and friendly atmosphere. This event will enable us to sing ‘old favourites’, and try out some tuneful newer worship songs that will enhance our worship. This will be an enjoyable fun event with plenty of opportunity to chat and will be suitable for children as well. Light refreshments will be provided at lunchtime. The event will run from 11 am

until 2 pm with a break for lunch. Do reserve this date in your diaries. Look out for future events.

The Bible encourages us to push the boundaries and ‘do a new thing’. Do come along, be bold, and above all, be blessed.

Peter and Margaret

HARVEST THANK YOU

We have received the following letter from Living Well, to whom we gave non-perishable Harvest Gifts:-

“On behalf of all the guests and volunteers at Living Well, I am writing to thank you very much for your generous donations to the food bank. The donations provide essential items to people who are vulnerable or suffering hardship in the local area.

People come from all over Bromley to use the food bank and demand continues to grow. Over the last 2 years we have seen a 23% increase in usage, and have given out 5,010 bags of food. We have 568 people registered with us, 35% of whom are homeless or sofa surfing. Many of the people who turn to us for help have had their benefits sanctioned, are trying to pay off debts or are finding it impossible to meet the rising costs of living. Others are struggling with drug or alcohol addiction, or mental health problems. The food bank is a hand up, rather than a hand out: our statistics show that most people visit the food bank fewer than five times before moving on.

Thanks to your generosity, we will be able to continue to support people through difficult times in the weeks and months ahead.

With very best wishes

REV. DR. NICK READ
Director of Living Well Bromley & Vicar of Holy Trinity Beckenham

Prayer matters – It really does!

The Thursday morning Anerley Church Prayer Meeting has now been ‘running’ for more than six months. ‘Running’ is an appropriate word as we started off at a slow and perhaps slightly hesitant walking pace **in faith** wondering how the meeting would develop, and who would attend.

With a focus on God firmly at the centre of the meetings, and the Holy Spirit guiding us and enabling us to pray with power and conviction, we give God the glory that we are now starting to ‘run’ with confidence.

We have seen remarkable answers to some of our prayers, and are patiently waiting for some of our other prayers to be answered in God’s good time according to His will.

The ‘drop in’ Prayer Meeting is for anyone who feels led to turn up at the church on a Thursday morning between 10 and 11.30, to wait on God, to pray, or just to ‘listen’ in the calm and peaceful ‘oasis’ that our church offers.

An average of six to seven people ‘drop in’ each week, sometimes more! Word about the Prayer Meeting has spread to other churches in our circuit and we have been privileged - on occasions – to be able to share prayers and fellowship with friends from Upper Norwood and Forest Hill churches. We are greatly encouraged and blessed that our minister Imran is able to join us most Thursdays.

Although there is a ‘pattern’ to our Thursday morning meetings, no two prayer meetings have ever been the same! Our focus is on prayer, but with the leading of the Holy Spirit we have been known to break out into song; to share spiritual insights and words of prophecy and discernment, and - on occasions - to pray specifically for each other.

Prayer is as much about **listening to God** as is it is about **talking with God**. Prayer strengthens our individual relationship with God and is important for our Christian growth and development.

The Prayer Meeting offers a welcoming, loving, respectful, supportive, non-judgmental and comfortable environment for those who need prayer support on their Christian journey.

Do feel free to come along and join us, even if it is only on a 'one off' or infrequent basis. If you are not able to attend because of other commitments, you can always join us in prayer wherever you are at the time – at home or at work - knowing that you are praying simultaneously alongside us. Do let us know if you, your family or friends have any special prayer requests.

Here are some comments that the 'drop ins' have made about how they have been blessed by attending the Prayer Meeting:-

I find the prayer meeting uplifting and I enjoy the fellowship. The variety of quiet time, spoken and silent prayers, discussion and impromptu song in prayer - We all join in and sing.

I believe this is God moving amongst us in response to our needs.

The prayer meeting on Thursday mornings extends an open invitation to all, for fellowship and offering prayers for ourselves and others that we know need them. It is very fulfilling and encouraging when the things we pray for are answered. Also the quiet time, conversations and songs are amazing and uplifting. Anyone can drop in and out at any time.

For me, the prayer meeting is a precious time when I can be silent in the presence of God, in his house and with his people.

We are aware of the presence of God's Holy Spirit when we pray.

We ask God's blessing on those who especially need it.

We listen for God's voice.

The prayer meeting has become a springboard for ideas.

I never knew a prayer meeting could be so much fun at the same time as being edifying.

What a lovely opportunity to surround everything the church does with prayer; to share our concerns and thanks with God and with each other, and to see how God does indeed answer our prayers – sometimes in unexpected ways.

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you (1 Thessalonians 5 16-18 ESV)

The Prayer Meeting 'Drop-ins'

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CHRISTMAS SALE

There will be a sale of handicrafts and bric-a-brac after the Gift Service on Sunday 6th December, in aid of charities supported by the Christian Action Group

Anerley – Who we are

The theme of the Circuit Service at Hither Green Methodist Church on 25th October 2015 was “Celebrating Who We Are”. Each Church in the Circuit was required to present an object to represent it.

In the Morning Service of 18th October, our minister Rev. Imran Malik presented a picture of a pomegranate. He suggested the notion that the pomegranate fruit has many seeds and different segments but is all one fruit. We were asked to each write on a ‘seed’ to say how we each saw Anerley Church or how we saw our own role in Anerley Church. The pomegranate and the pomegranate picture was presented to the Circuit Service with this explanation.

“In the Morning Service we looked at the idea that the pomegranate fruit has many seeds and different segments but is all one fruit. We were asked to each write on a ‘seed’ to say how we each saw Anerley Church or how we saw our own role in Anerley Church.

The words written on the seeds have been collected together to give a synopsis for you. We have some ‘seeds’ coloured in by children showing that they are included in our ‘fruit’. People wrote about Praising God, about singing and music and their pleasure in helping others in this area. They wrote about the Church helping in their walk with God, in increasing their understanding of Him, and being blessed by Holy Communion. They mentioned the importance of praying both in Praying for our Church and the community in which we live, and in being able to ask for prayer in their own troubles or those of loved ones.

Many people wrote that Anerley is a loving, friendly Church. There are people who are chatty and welcoming. There are

equally, quiet people who are observant and offer a listening ear. Being quietly friendly was seen as a very valuable asset by others. People felt they are forgiven, not judged.

People wrote about specific actions like teaching in the Church, doing what was needed, doing readings and administration. Some are happy to help and offer support and encouragement rather than initiating actions. Equally there were others who wrote in appreciation that the Church is a serving Church both to those who come and to the Community. They appreciated the opportunity to grow in their faith and in their life in God.

Some wrote of the importance of growing, serving, learning and increasing in understanding. The mentioning of loving and serving were the strongest flavours in our individual 'seeds'.

We pray this will continue."

Margaret Boreham

BIBLE STUDIES VIA SKYPE

At the last Church Council in October, it was suggested that Bible Studies, or other discussion groups at the Church, might be possible via Skype for those unable to attend. Many people now use Skype to talk to family and friends who are not nearby, and so will already have the relevant equipment. For others who may wish to join in, a webcam is relatively cheap.

We are not sure if such a project is technically feasible, and, even if it is, there are other problems to be overcome. However, to gauge how much interest there would be in this sort of activity, if you think that you would like to take part in studies or discussions in this way, please speak with Imran. Similarly, if you can help on the technical side e.g. with Skype transmissions, please let Imran know.

Blackheath & Crystal Palace Circuit Weekend

**Friday evening to Sunday afternoon
17th – 19th June 2016**

At

**High Leigh Conference Centre
Hertfordshire**

Cost: £144 per person for an en-suite room
(includes accommodation and meals from Friday tea-time to Sunday lunch)

A booking has been secured for 35 rooms, including doubles, and as allocation of rooms will be on a ‘first come, first served’ basis, we are asking that you register an interest as soon as possible as numbers will be limited.

In registering an interest you are in no way committing to the booking but will be included on a priority list for securing a place on the weekend.

Further details are available from Stephen Maunder.

Please email Linda Ryan at the Circuit office
office.bcpc@btinternet.com if you wish to register an interest, confirming name(s) and whether or not you are willing to share a room

For more information about High Leigh:
www.cct.org.uk/high-leigh

COOKERY CORNER

Sugarless Low Fat Pineapple Cake

You will need a 20cm (8in) cake tin (round or square).
Makes 6—8 portions

Ingredients

425g (15oz) can of pineapple in natural juice	
450g (1lb) dried mixed fruit	2 tablespns corn oil
1 teaspn. Mixed spice	2 medium eggs
225 g (8oz) white self-raising flour	

Method

1. Crush the canned pineapple in its natural juice
2. Place the pineapple, mixed fruit, mixed spice and corn oil in a saucepan
3. Bring slowly to the boil for 3 minutes only and leave until absolutely cold, preferably overnight
4. Beat the eggs, then blend eggs and flour into the fruity mixture in the saucepan.
5. Place the mixture in the greased cake tin.
6. Bake at gas mark 3/ 325° F/ 170° C (150° for fan oven) for about 1½ hours, covering if necessary. .
7. Test with a skewer or knife.
8. When cold, store in the refrigerator..

Ann Vickery

			
		Andrew Hynes 29A Bourdon Road Anerley London SE20 7SP Phone: - 07960 588116 Email: - a.hynes2@ntlworld.com a.hynes2@ntlworld.com	
			
			
			
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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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REGULAR CHURCH USERS

Amaze Penge	Tuesday 10am-12 noon term time	Tel.07882 760 828
Brownies	Thursday evenings	Tel. 07479 940 125
Campbell School of Dance		Tel. 020 8777 7529
Friday 4pm to 7pm		
Community of Faith (Brazilian Church)		Tel: 07429 263407
Wed. 7.30-9.30pm. Saturday 6—10pm		
Dog Training	Monday 7pm - 9pm	Tel. 07939 023 135
JAKAB Fitness & Self Defence	Weds. 8-10pm	Tel. 020 8301 5219
Jumoke Holiday Club & Jazzy Juniors		Tel. 020 8656 8684
School Holidays Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm; Term Time 4.pm-6pm		
Living Vine Ministry		Tel: 020 0249 2352
Friday 7pm-9pm; Sunday 8-10.30am		
Love 2 Dance	Friday 6.45pm to 8.45pm	Tel. 020 8244 0512
Only Believe Assembly	Tues 7.30pm 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; Tues 7pm to 9pm		
Slimming World		Tel. 07718 342 102
Tues 4.30pm—9pm, Weds 9am-11.30pm		
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)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DECEMBER

- Wed 2nd Wednesday Club 8pm : Seasonal Readings
- Sun 6th Gift Service 11am led by Rev. Imran Malik
- Mon 7th Christian Action Group 8pm at 28 Chesham Road.
Speaker: Rev. Andrew Jones, Avenue Baptist Church
- Wed 9th Wednesday Club 8pm: Christmas Music
- Sun 13th Carol Service 6.30pm led by Valerie Tredinnick
- Wed 16th Wednesday Club 8pm: Seasonal Games
- Wed 23rd Wednesday Club 8pm: Christmas Allsorts
- Thur 24th Christmas Eve Communion 9.15pm
- Fri 25th Christmas Day All Age Worship 9.15 am
- Sun 27th All Age Worship 11am. Preacher: Sylvia Aryitey
- Wed 30th Wednesday Club 8pm Social Evening at 179 Langley Way, West Wickham
- Thurs 31st Watchnight Services 11.15pm at Forest Hill Methodist Church; 11.15pm at Lewisham Methodist Church

JANUARY

- Sun 3rd Covenant Service 11am
- Wed 6th Wednesday Club 8pm: 2016 Evening
- Sun 10th ALL MAGAZINE ARTICLES TO MARIAN TODAY

Mon 18th Christian Action Group 8pm at 103 Birchanger Road – Business Meeting

Wed 13th Wednesday Club 8pm: Quiz of the Year

Wed 20th Wednesday Club 8pm: Puzzle Evening .

Sun 24th All Age Worship 11am. Preacher: Taiwo Dayo-Payne

Sat 30th Song Saturday 11am—2pm More details later

Wed 27th Wednesday Club 8pm: Surprise Evening

FEBRUARY

- Tue 2nd Circuit Meeting 7.45pm at Burnt Ash Methodist Church
- Wed 3rd Wednesday Club 8pm : Beetle Drive
- Thur 4th Pastoral Committee 7.30pm at the Church
- Mon 8th Christian Action Group 8pm at 163 Clock House Road
Speaker: Rev. Imran Malik
- Wed 10th Ash Wednesday—No Wednesday Club
- Tue 18th Church Council 8pm at the Church

Morning Services are held every Sunday at 11am. During December Holy Communion will be celebrated on the 20th, and All Age Worship will take place on 6th (Gift Service) and 27th. In addition, Christmas Day will be All Age Worship (9.15am). In January Holy Communion will be celebrated on 3rd (Covenant Service) and All Age Worship is on 24th.

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 service will be on 13th (Carol Service) and Holy Communion will be celebrated on Christmas Eve (9.15pm). During January evening services will be on 10th (H.C.) and 24th.