

ANERLEY CENTRE ECHO



LATE SUMMER 2016

The Newsletter of
ANERLEY METHODIST CHURCH

Oakfield Road
Anerley
London SE20 8QA

USEFUL CHURCH CONTACTS (as at 01.06.15) 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
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Wednesday Club	Marian Young	8402 6618
Church Library	Valerie Tredinnick	8658 2347
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Junior Missionary Association	Dinah Anaman	7274 6294
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**ALL CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE NEXT MAGAZINE
SHOULD BE GIVEN TO MARIAN YOUNG BY
SUNDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER**

Church website: www.anerleymethodist.org

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Volume 48 Number 2

MINISTER'S LETTER

"I am and always will be the optimist, the hoper of far-flung hopes and the dreamer of improbable dreams." The 11th Doctor Who - Matt Smith

Those who are Doctor Who fans know who Matt Smith is, but if you are not a Doctor Who fan please don't worry because I am the only one in my family who isn't a fan. Even our three year old is a Doctor who fan. Of course he doesn't really know anything about the program, but he thinks that Doctor who is a superhero who gets to come back to life as a different person, fights the bad guys and always wins. Doctor Who is a science-fiction drama depicting the adventures of the Doctor. With his time machine Doctor Who is able to travel time and space (future and past) and always finds himself preventing evil forces from hurting innocent people, with his ingenuity and few resources. Programs like this seem to suggest that some evils of societies do not die with time.

We are living through interesting times in which the leadership of this country and many others is in turmoil. Brexit has reawakened some of the evils we have been trying to get rid of for generations, the evils of racism and hate.

Once again we wait for an incarnation of a true leader who would not only heal this broken nation, but by using their ingenuity make use best use of our national resources. But, is it too much to expect from a leader in these interesting times?

With all the advancements in knowledge and technology I have been optimistic that the people of this era are better equipped to avoid repeating the mistakes of history. I hoped that the prophecies of scripture about harmony and peace among people of all nations and races would come true in my life time, as the people of this era would have a better understanding about peace, harmony, kindness and justice. But it seems that many communities and nations are no different than communities and

nations of the past. When it comes to showing love for our neighbours, many good people choose to walk the other side of the road, avoiding mess and chaos.

The Methodist church recognises that since the result of the referendum there has been a surge in hate and racial crimes. This time of change and uncertainty requires a leadership which seeks the common good and encourages people to work together, to respect one another and to uphold the dignity of all.

We are called to be respectful, tolerant and to show love and hospitality to our neighbours. We are all called to take responsibility for speaking and acting for healing, reconciliation, and mutual respect.

Racism and hate are the evils of our time that "lead to the victimisation of groups within society ... such actions and words have been normalised in recent public discourse... Racism is a denial of the gospel and that to stay silent when others are abused is to collude with those who seek to promote hatred and division". (Methodist Conference 2016; <http://www.methodist.org.uk/mission/public-issues/national-life>)

Of course Brexit and following hate incidents fill many with anger and anxiety. Once again we are called turn to God for guidance and leadership.

Situations like this may be disappointing and we may seem to have gone backwards, but scripture encourages us to be anxious for nothing, but in everything, by prayer and petition, present our requests to God and ask for His peace which surpasses all understanding. In this we are also called to hold on to whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable. (Philippians 4:6-8)

Rev Imran Malik

ROUND THE FAMILY

We were very sorry to hear of the death of the Rev. John Taylor on 9th June after a long period of ill-health. He will be sorely missed at Anerley and an appreciation of John's life appears elsewhere in the magazine. Please remember Julie in your prayers at this difficult time. Please also remember Hilary Waterhouse, following the death of her mother, Ola Joseph, following the death of her mother in Nigeria, and Brian Surrey, following the death of both his father and his cousin.

We were also sorry to hear that Len Maskell, a former member of our church, is not very well following a major operation for cancer. Please remember Len and Brenda in your prayers. Please also remember the Rev. Peter Coates, a former Minister of our Church, as he recovers from a major operation in July to replace his shoulder, and another former Minister, the Rev. Graham Cocking, as he recovers from an eye operation. Also Thomas Tchine, as he continues with his treatment.

On a brighter note, we were pleased to hear that Audrey Bobb-Sayers has graduated from Sussex University with a BA Honours in Professional Studies in Learning and Development—congratulations!

Marian

THE REV. JOHN TAYLOR

John was born in Chillerton, on the Isle of Wight, on 4th November 1949. He attended the Sunday School at Chillerton Methodist Chapel with his brothers and sister, and one of the teachers there taught John to play the piano, and at the age of 11 John started playing the organ at the Chapel.

John was commissioned as a fully accredited local preacher in the Methodist Church in December 1984. John's first job after leaving school was in a gentlemen's outfitters in Newport. The shop was opposite the Newport Congregational Church and the proprietor of the shop encouraged John to attend the "Pleasant Sunday Afternoon" meetings held at the Church. This group was affiliated to the Brotherhood and Sisterhood Movement and so began John's long association with this movement. He became their National President in 1990 and later became their General Secretary and organised the National Conferences and other events.

In 1991 John and Julie were married at Rookley Methodist Church. In 1992 there was a Lay Witness Weekend at the Church and John received the call to full-time ministry, but not in the Methodist Church where he and Julie were born and bred, but in the Congregational Church. John was ordained as a Minister in the Congregational Church in 1996, and he and Julie moved to Penge Congregational Church in 1998, where they spent 15 happy years and became part of the Penge Community.

In 2013 John retired from the Congregational Church and he and Julie came "back home" to their roots and joined our Church at Anerley. John was well known to us at Anerley long before he and Julie joined us, as members of our congregation had attended his induction at Penge Congregational Church in 1998, and he soon became a friend of our

church, speaking regularly at our Christian Action Group and preaching in our church at least once a year.

John didn't retire from preaching, but was soon busy taking services in the Blackheath and Crystal Palace Circuit, wherever and whenever he was called, and also helping out other churches when they were short of a pianist or organist..

We at Anerley gained a member, friend, pastor and talented pianist and it has been a great joy to have John lead worship for us, and to take part in and lead our study evenings. John took his last service on 10th January this year and it was fitting that it should have been at Anerley. Although he was not at all well, he was given strength and everyone commented on his powerful sermon.

John was enormously proud of his Methodist roots and often quoted the words of John Wesley in his sermons. Wesley's last words were, "The best is this - God is with us." We know that God was with John through all his life, guiding and directing him, and we know that John is now with his Lord. It has been a great privilege to know John, and we will never forget him.

Thank you from Julie

To all my friends at Anerley—Thank you so much for all your help with the catering for the reception after John's funeral. It was such a lovely spread—you all worked so hard.

Thank you for your love, prayers and support during this difficult time. I am so thankful to be a member at Anerley and to be part of such a wonderful fellowship and family.

Love from Julie

'Living Sounds – Living Hope' concert at Anerley Methodist Church, Saturday October 8th 2016, 2.30 – 4.30 pm

Here is an advanced date for your diaries.

Peter is organising a fun and family-friendly fund raising **musical extravaganza** in the Chapel at Anerley on the afternoon of Saturday October 8th 2016.

Every penny raised by this concert will go to Imran's 'Living Hope' school project in Pakistan. There will be something for everyone at this concert – all styles of 'tuneful' secular and Christian music performed 'live' by an assemblage of very talented musicians and singers.

The concert will be in two 45 minute halves with a half hour refreshment break in the middle.

Tickets (price £5 a head – including half time refreshments) will go on sale at the end of August. Tickets will need to be **ordered and paid for** in advance of the concert. This is the sort of concert you can bring your non-church friends to, as well as family, friends and relatives. We want to fill every available seat in the Chapel for this special event! Do set this date aside and be willing to have an uplifting, lively, and entertaining afternoon for a really good cause.

OXFAM

Did you know that currently **OXFAM** is working on more than 1,000 projects worldwide? The current (July) newsletter tells us that this is something they couldn't do without our support.

Monitoring and evaluating what **OXFAM** does is vital to their work. It helps **OXFAM** staff learn what's working and what could be improved. It helps them share that knowledge and plan effectively and it makes sure they are accountable to everyone who makes their work possible – especially ourselves- the supporters. But above all monitoring and evaluating ensures that **OXFAM** is helping as many people as possible to achieve genuine, lasting change and live lives free from poverty.

If you are reading this and are not already a 'pledged giver' supporter then please do speak with me. Thank you.

Valerie

"The People's Choice"

Over to you! Songs of Praise on Sunday evening 28th August, 6.30pm at the Church.

If there is a hymn or Christian song you would like us to sing, please tell Valerie by Sunday **14th August** – no later so that it can be included in the programme.

There will be a cup of tea/coffee at the end of the evening - about 7.45pm.

Valerie

COOKERY CORNER

Banana Bread

Ingredients

3-4 mashed bananas	140gr.(5oz) plain flour
3 beaten eggs	2 level teaspns baking powder
1 tspn vanilla essence	140gr.(5 oz) wholemeal flour
½ tspn salt	200ml (7 fl. oz.) vegetable oil
100gr (4oz) light muscovado sugar	
50gr (2 oz) shelled and chopped pecans or walnuts	

Method

1. Preheat oven to 160°C fan oven/ 140°C/Gas mark 2
2. Lightly oil a 900gr. loaf tin.
3. Mix the bananas with the eggs, vanilla and oil.
4. Mix together the two flours in a separate bowl with the baking powder and muscovado sugar, then add the nuts.
5. Fold the dry mixture into the banana mixture and pour into the tin.
6. Bake in the oven for 50-60 minutes, then insert a skewer into the cake, which will come out clean if the cake is done..
7. Allow to cool for 30 minutes before removing from the tin..

Ann Vickery

AUTUMN STUDY EVENINGS

At the Autumn Studies we will be looking at Barnabas – Son of Encouragement. Barnabas joined St Paul on his journeys giving him both support and encouragement in his mission. Come along and share in seven studies looking at how Barnabas' life can encourage us on our Christian journey.

The sessions will be held on Monday evenings on the dates listed below at 8pm in the small hall.

26th September

3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, & 31st October

7th November

Leaflets with more details will be available shortly.

Freedoms to Share

This is the title of the Methodist Prayer Handbook for 2016/17.

If you would like to order a copy please let Valerie have your order by Sunday **21st August**.

Prices are: £3.95 whether you have regular or large print.

Valerie

BENEVOLENT FUND OFFERINGS

During August the Retiring Collections made at Communion Services will be in aid of Help the Aged

Our Hymn singing heritage

Hymns form an important part of church worship today and Methodists have - during the past 250 years - played a prominent part in promoting and using hymns as an expression and declaration of the truths of the Christian faith.

The introduction and use of hymns in our churches has been a long and sometimes difficult journey involving debate, argument, fallings 'in' and fallings 'out', and even lengthy court cases. During the next four issues of the *Anerley Echo* we will be looking at the process by which hymns have become a core focus of our Methodist theology, public worship and personal devotions.

The concept of hymns and hymn singing goes back almost three thousand years to Ancient Greece. Hymns were originally secular songs written in honour of the Gods, prominent figures and heroes.

The New Testament tells us that hymns (from the Greek word '*hymnos*' meaning songs of praise) were sung by Jesus and the disciples (Matthew 26:30) and that hymns are different from Psalms (Ephesians 5:19). Other than that, not much is known about Christian hymns during the first three centuries of the Church.

There are some surviving hymns that were written in the 4th and 5th centuries that are still being sung in churches today. In the 6th century, Benedict of Nursia (480-547), founder of the Catholic Benedictine Order of Monks translated many of the existing hymns into Latin and developed them into Gregorian Chants.

These beautiful simple plainsong hymns sung primarily by monks (and later by nuns) remained the acceptable Christian

church music for many years and played an important role in monastic liturgy. Great for the monks and nuns, and nice to listen to, but for the ordinary uneducated listener who had never had the chance to learn Latin, the words might just as well have been in a totally incomprehensible foreign language!

In the early 16th century the Protestant Reformation initiated by Martin Luther (1483-1546) brought about many changes, including some hymns being translated from Greek and Latin into languages of the common people. At last, hymns and songs used in church worship started to be written with familiar folk rhyme and rhythm. These hymns were easy to sing and memorise, and were sung in the vernacular language. This is how people learned their theology!

Martin Luther created songs based on scriptural principle but not taken directly from the Scripture. The most famous of his hymns '*A Mighty Fortress is Our God*' is still sung in churches today.

The reformers required that the new hymns should have a strictly scriptural basis and they therefore began to introduce metrical versions of the psalms – where the psalms were given a rhyme and rhythm and verse structure. The invention of the printing press at this time further encouraged the spread and use of both psalms and hymns in worship.

In England, the church authorities determined to adapt all their **new** hymns from the Holy Scriptures (mainly the Psalms). Metrical psalms sung in English were quite acceptable to the church, but use of some of the less scripturally based 'hymns' was opposed by the Anglican church authorities because the hymn lyrics did not match the high standard of English used in the Book of Common Prayer.

There were a few 17th century English poets (John Donne, George Herbert and Henry Vaughan) who wrote devotional poetry. Only later did their poems come to be used as hymns.

The first serious hymn writer was Hampshire poet George Wither, whose *Hymns and Songs of the Church* (1623) was intended to supplement the official Psalter. Accused of trying to make money out of religion, Wither was refused permission to publish a combined hymnbook and Psalter because his hymns were deemed 'unfit to keep company with David's Psalms'.

Isaac Watts (1647-1748) is often described as the father of English hymnody. Certainly his hymns were the first serious challenge to the universal use of metrical psalms in public worship. Watts was unimpressed by the poor quality of the Puritan hymns sung at the Southampton Meeting House that he attended.

Watts began to write simple compositions based on an imaginative combination of Scripture and poetry. Watts firmly believed that the words used in congregational hymns should express the religious feelings of the people. Isaac Watts wrote classics that we still sing today '*When I survey the wondrous cross*'; '*O God our help in Ages past*', and '*Joy to the World*'.

Watts' poetical creativity and metrical skill changed the nature of congregational singing in Christian worship and set an inspiring example to subsequent hymn writers, among them Charles Wesley.

John and Charles Wesley and the early Methodists were to revolutionise the use of congregational hymns in worship during the 18th Century (to be continued).

Peter Boreham

Ronnie Butler's Weekend Away at the Blackheath & Crystal Palace Circuit Weekend at High Leigh Conference Centre

Friday evening to Sunday afternoon 17 - 19 June 2016

Friday

I travelled down to the weekend by car with Pam Clews. We set off from Forest Hill around 2.00pm. Stopping for a couple of refreshment breaks on the way as it was a long drive. On arrival I met up with other people from the circuit - it was good to see and meet people from the other churches. There was a short "Listening to God through Scripture" which ended with evening prayer.

Saturday

After a good breakfast we did two sessions of "Listening to God in Prayers" We shared our thoughts and prayers. Our lunch was around midday. After lunch we were free for the afternoon to go sight seeing or relax at High Leigh. I will leave you to guess which one I did.

The session on Saturday ended with a "Listening to God through Music" I enjoyed this.

After our evening meal we had our shared "Entertainment" evening. I read about Bob Dylan and played one of his tunes - "Blowing in the Wind" Everyone found it very interesting. We also had a sing-a-long of some old and new songs in groups. It was good fun.

Sunday

Our final session was on "Discerning God's voice" I was able to choose a prayer and say why I chose it. We had a short break, then a service to include celebration of Holy Communion. This service was led by Pam Clews, and others. After-

wards we had lunch.

Finally

All too soon it was over, my weekend of fellowship and fun with other people from the circuit. The conference made me realise how lucky I am, there are others around who are worse off than myself. A thank you to Pam for her help and kindness throughout the weekend.

Ronnie

METHODIST TALENTS FESTIVAL 2017

The Methodist Talents Festival will take place next year on Saturday 4th March at Shirley Methodist Church. Copies of the syllabus will be available shortly, to give you time to start preparing your entries!

Whatever your interests, there are a wide range of creative and performing classes from which to choose, so you are sure to find something to suit you!

I need to have your name, and details of the classes you wish to enter by Sunday 27th November at the latest, plus an entry fee of 50p per class.

FROM THE LONDON DISTRICT

The London District has three Chairs, and the Chair responsible for the London South area, the Rev. Jenny Impey, will be curtailing her final year as District Chair and will be leaving at the end of September. Jenny has faced several personal, family and health problems and feels that the time is now right for her to go. She has served the London District since it was set up in 2006 and is the only remaining Chair of the three original Chairs that were appointed to the new District. Another Chair to replace her will be appointed in due course.





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Anerley Methodist Church

Deputy Leader: Sue Charlesworth

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SENCO: Dawn McConochie

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REGULAR CHURCH USERS

Amaze Penge Tuesday 10—12 noon. Term time	Tel; 07882 760 828
Brownies—Thursday evenings	Tel.07479 940 125
Campbell School of Dance Friday 4—7pm	Tel. 020 8777 7529
Community of Faith (Brazilian Church) Wed. 7.30-9.30pm; Saturday 6pm-10pm ;	Tel. 07429 263 407
Dog Training Monday 7pm - 9pm	Tel. 07939 023 135
JAKAB Fitness & Self Defence Weds. 8-10pm	Tel. 020 83015219
Jumoke Holiday Club & Jazzy Juniors School Holidays Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm ; term time 4-6pm	Tel. 020 8656 8684
Living Vine Ministry Friday 7pm -9pm; Sunday 8am –10.30am	Tel. 020 8249 2352
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
Progressive Sports for Juniors	Tel. 020 8854 1154
Penge Community Pre-School Monday to Friday 9.15am to 4pm	Tel. 020 8289 6771
Salvation & Deliverance Ministry Sunday 2pm to 4.30pm; Tuesday 7pm to 9pm	Tel. 020 8683 3094
Tai Chi - Thursday 8pm - 10pm	Tel. 01424 420 050

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

AUGUST

Wed 3rd Wednesday Club 8pm Andrew's Birthday Evening at 32 Lloyds Way

Thur 4th Prayer Meeting 10—11.30am at the Church

Mon 8th Christian Action Group 8pm at TBA . DVD of the life of John Wesley and Wesley's Chapel

Wed 10th Wednesday Club 8pm Beetle Drive

Thur 11th Prayer Meeting 10—11.30am at the Church

Wed 17th Wednesday Club 8pm Programme Planning

Thur 18th Prayer Meeting 10—11.30am at the Church

Wed 24th Wednesday Club 8pm Music Evening

Thur 25th Prayer Meeting 10—11.30am at the Church

Sun 28th Songs of Praise evening 6.30pm

Wed 31st Wednesday Club 8pm Build a Hovercraft

SEPTEMBER

Thur 1st Prayer Meeting 10—11.30am at the Church

Wed 7th Wednesday Club 8pm.

Thur 8th Prayer Meeting 10—11.30am at the Church

Sun 11th Circuit Service 4pm at Anerley. Preacher: the Rev. Val Ogden, Pacific Theological College, Fiji.

Sun 11th MAGAZINE ITEMS TO BE GIVEN TO MARIAN!

Mon 12th Christian Action Group 8pm at 103 Birchanger Road, SE25 Speaker: Elizabeth Buck

Wed 14th Wednesday Club 8pm

Thur 15th Prayer Meeting 10—11.30am at the Church

Sun 18th Circuit Hymn Service at Forest Hill 4pm "Sing to the Lord with Cheerful Voice"

Thur 22nd Prayer Meeting 10—11.30am at the Church

Thur 22nd Circuit Meeting 7.45 pm at Hither Green Methodist Church

Mon 26th Study Evening 8pm at the Church

Wed 28th Wednesday Club 8pm

Thur 29th Prayer Meeting 10—11.30am at the Church

Sun 25th 11am Harvest Festival Service, Preacher: Rev. Imran Malik (All Age Worship), followed by a Faith Lunch

OCTOBER

Mon 3rd Study Evening 8pm at the Church

Thur 13th Church Council 8pm at the Church

Thur 20th Pastoral Committee Meeting

Sun 30th JMA Service 11am

Morning Services are held every Sunday at 11am. Holy Communion will be celebrated on 21st August. All morning services during August are child friendly

Evening Services will be held at 6.30 pm on 14th August (HC), 28th August, 11th (4pm) and 25th September. September dates for Holy Communion are not yet available.