

ANERLEY CENTRE ECHO



CHRISTMAS 2019

**The Newsletter of
ANERLEY METHODIST CHURCH**

Oakfield Road
Anerley
London SE20 8QA

USEFUL CHURCH CONTACTS (as at 01.09.17 All prefix 020

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Minister	Rev. Abe Konadu-Yiadom	8653 4902
Church Council Secretary		
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
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Christian Aid	Julie Taylor	8778 5881
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**ALL CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE NEXT MAGAZINE
SHOULD BE GIVEN TO MARIAN YOUNG BY
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Church website: www.anerleymethodist.org

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FROM THE MINISTER

Advent

Advent marks the beginning of the Christian year. It is the four weeks before Christmas, beginning on December 1st this year. This is the Church's New Year's Day. The word 'Advent' comes from the Latin '**adventus**' which means 'arrival' or 'coming'. This time for Christians is a season of hope and the period of preparation for celebration of the birth of Jesus. They also look forward to the time that Jesus will come again.

The clergy wear and pulpit fall usually changes to purple during Advent. There are often no flowers decorating the church, but it is customary to have an Advent Crown also known as an Advent Wreath. These are made from a circle of evergreen plants such as holly and ivy which symbolises a God with no beginning or end. The evergreen is a reminder that God does not change. The holly is also a symbol of the crown of thorns that Jesus wore when he was crucified. Four candles are fixed round the circle and another is placed in the middle. Various colours of candles have been used such as three purple and a pink with one white in the middle. The unlit candles represent darkness. One purple candle is lit on the first Sunday of Advent. On the second Sunday, it is lit again together with another purple one, and in some traditions the pink candle is lit on the 3rd Sunday as this used to be the Sunday in the Roman Catholic lectionary when the entrance Introit, "Rejoice (*gaudete*) in the Lord always, again I say, rejoice", has been used. It is reminding us that the end of Advent is almost here, and we are joyful. So, this Sunday used to be known as 'Gaudete Sunday'. finally, on Christmas Day, the white candle is also lit representing Jesus Christ as the light of the world.

Every Blessing as we enter the season of Advent

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols: 6.30pm 22.12.19

I have always been passionate about the King's College Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols since discovering it in the 80s and this is why. The

first Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was held on Christmas Eve 1918. It was planned by Eric Milner-White, who at the age of thirty-four had just been appointed Dean of King's after experience as an army chaplain which had convinced him that the Church of England needed more imaginative worship. Many of those who took part in the first service must have recalled those killed in the Great War when it came to the famous passage 'all those who rejoice with us but on another shore and in a greater light'.

The pattern and strength of the service, as Dean Milner-White pointed out, derives from the lessons and not the music. 'The main theme is the development of the loving purposes of God ...' seen 'through the windows and words of the Bible'.

It can be hard at times for us to see the loving purposes of God in our complicated and at times violent, selfish and unloving world, having just observed Remembrance Sunday and all that it symbolises. Christina Rossetti expressed her faith in the message of Christmas as follows:

*Love came down at
Christmas, Love all
lovely, love divine;
Love was born at
Christmas, Star and
angels gave the
sign.
Worship we the
Godhead, Love
incarnate, love
divine; Worship
we our Jesus:
But wherewith for sacred sign?
Love shall be our token,
Love shall be yours and
love be mine, Love to God
and to all the world
Love for plea and gift and sign*

Is there someone calling out for our love this Christmas? Is there someone we need to forgive or with whom we need to be reconciled?

When we send our greetings to our friends and relatives, is there

someone else we could include this Christmas? It doesn't have to be someone we know. Why not join with charities such as Amnesty International in sending greetings to those imprisoned unjustly? Or when we gather with friends and family for meal times, is there a neighbour we could include who is lonely? For in so doing, we would be shining a light in the darkness and bringing love into another's life. The story of Christmas is about barriers being broken down and we show our love of God in how we care for our sisters and brothers.

The Opening Prayer (Bidding Prayer) from the Kings College Carol Service reminds us that Christianity is about looking beyond ourselves:

*let us pray for the needs of the whole world, and
all people; for peace upon the earth Christ came
to save;
for love and unity within the one Church
he did build; for goodwill among all peo-
ples.*

*And particularly at this time let us
remember the poor, the cold, the
hungry, the oppressed;
the sick and them that mourn; the lonely and
the unloved; the aged and the little children;*

May our preparations and our celebrations be truly inclusive this Christmas time. Meanwhile, I look forward to seeing you at our Carol Service.

Every Blessing, Abe



Advent Offering & Liturgy 2019 HOMELESSNESS & HOSPITALITY

This year's Candle Liturgy links lighting the Advent Wreath with the theme of this year's Advent Offering, '**HOMELESSNESS & HOSPITALITY**'. Each week in Advent, the Leader says a prayer and lights the candle(s).

Then everyone sings a verse from Longing for Light (StF 706).<https://www.methodist.org.uk/media/14683/candle-liturgy-1-25-december.pdf>

Invitation to an 'Advent Quiet Morning: Imagining the Nativity' 10am – 13.00pm Saturday 14th December 2019 at Upper Norwood Methodist Church

Feeling Blue this Christmas?

For many, the approaching Christmas holiday does not bring with it the joy and happiness that is advertised on television, or in greeting cards. If the Christmas season will be difficult for you, please join us for a 'Candlelit Carols: A Service of Light' followed by mince pies and alcohol-free mulled wine, on Saturday, 21st December 6.30pm, at Upper Norwood Methodist Church, Westow Hill, London, SE19 1TQ.

Work of Christmas Begins.....

When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with the flocks,
then the work of Christmas begins:

to find the lost,
to heal those broken in spirit, to feed the hungry,
to release the oppressed, to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among all peoples,
to make a little music with the heart...
And to radiate the Light of Christ,
every day, in every way,
in all that we do and in all that we say.

Then the work of Christmas begins. (Howard Thurman, adapted)

Finally, a prayer for Christmas, New Year and Epiphany

Loving Father,

*In this Advent of expectation draw us together in unity, mission and service,
that the path we follow might lead us from a stable to a glimpse of eternity.*

*Help us remember the birth of Jesus,
that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds,
and worship of the wise men.*

*Creator God, at the start of this New Year when
thoughts turn again to beginnings, starting afresh, new
leaves. Walk with us into this New Year of opportunity*

*God of all time, we praise and adore you for breaking
into the darkness of this world with the glorious light of
your presence.*

*A light which made your love for the world visible in the babe
born in Bethlehem —*

Jesus Christ, your Son, our Saviour.

*We pray that you will accept our worship for it arises
from hearts and minds in awe over the enormity of
your gift to us of pure love.*

*In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen***

(www.faithandworship.com)

Pastoral News

As we approach Christmas, we remember those who are spending this first Christmas without someone they love. I am aware that Christmas can be a sad time for all those who have lost friends or relatives in recent times, and for those for whom the time of year is the anniversary of the death of a loved one. We remember especially members and friends of our Church who have died in recent years and we think of their loved ones, especially at this time. So if this Christmas season is, or will be difficult for you, please join us at Upper Norwood Methodist Church for a 'Blue Candlelit Service' followed by mince pies and some *alcohol free* mulled wine, on *Saturday, 21st December at 6:30pm*.

We remember too, those of our members who have been in hospital recently, Anita, Alfred. And of course, Joan and all who care for her and the residents at Hall Grange.

An invitation to all Church Members to Conversations around Marriage and Relationships 10am – 4pm Saturday, 18th January 2020

The aim of the conversations is for the Church to have meaningful, grace-filled conversations about the Report, *God in love unites us*, remembering that we are all made in the image of God (see more on this theme in the [Study Guide](#)), will be distributed in the coming weeks. The purpose of your conversation is to support and/or inform a decision-making process that will take place at District Synods. It is an opportunity for people to hear and understand one another, deepen their relationships and enable us all to move forward together as Church in communion. *ALL ARE WELCOME*

THE METHODIST COVENANT SERVICE

In the Roman Catholic and Anglican traditions there is a service for the renewal of Baptismal vows which often takes place on Easter Eve. In the Methodist Church the equivalent is the annual Covenant Service. John Wesley (1703-1791), himself an Anglican clergyman, saw the relationship between God and humanity as essentially covenantal. On December 25th, 1747, John Wesley started the principle of urging his followers to renew their Covenant with God. His first formal Covenant Service was held on 11th August 1755. John Wesley used words from Joseph and Richard Alleine. John Wesley published his first Order of Service in 1780. This was revised by the British Wesleyan Methodist Conference in 1880, and then in 1936, after the various branches of Methodism had reunited. More recently it was revised in Britain in 1975 and then in 1999. However, John Wesley's original version is still the basis for the current orders of service. It is a distinctively Methodist liturgy, although other denominations now make use of it. Its words have a profound meaning. It is now traditionally held on the first Sunday of the New Year, or as near to it as possible and includes the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

The most famous prayer in the Covenant Service is the prayer of commitment, written by John Wesley:

"I am no longer my own, but yours. Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will: put me to doing, put me to suffering; let me be employed by you or laid aside for you; exalted for you or brought low for you; let me be full, let me be

empty; let me have all things; let me have nothing. I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things to your pleasure and disposal. And now, glorious and blessed God, Father Son and Holy Spirit, you are mine and I am yours. So be it. And the covenant now made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven."

The phrase in this traditional prayer that gives most cause for concern is "put me to suffering". By this, Wesley did not mean that we ask God to make us suffer, but that we desire, by God's help, actively to do or patiently to accept, whatever is God's will for us. I look forward to the most every year and I hope to see as many of you at our annual Covenant Service on Sunday 19th January 2020 at 11am. But of course, all are welcome!

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, 18th – 25th January 2020

The theme for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2020, '**unusual kindness**', is deeply rooted in the Bible. The materials for the have been prepared by the Christian churches in Malta and Gozo (Christians Together in Malta). For further information, please visit <https://ctbi.org.uk/weekofprayer>

**Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and
New Year.**

With every blessing, your minister Abe & Matthew



Christmas Post Boxes

The boxes will be available in the Entrance Hall from the beginning of Advent. **Final collections** from both the **Country** and **Local boxes** will follow the morning service on Sunday 15th December. Do please note the date.

Whilst surnames are not necessary on every envelope, do bear in mind that we have members who share the same Christian name e.g. Anita, Hilary, Rose etc. In such cases do add the surname to ensure their cards are correctly delivered.

We invite donations for St. Christopher's Hospice. These can be placed in the plate alongside the boxes or handed directly to me. Last year net receipts (i.e. after paying the postage on the Country Box items) was just over £90. Let's see if we can top £100 this time.

For anyone who has not used the boxes before (and a reminder to everyone else) the **Local Box** is for cards going to church members or people who attend our services/other church activities regularly.

The **Country Box** is only for cards destined for the undermentioned friends who live further afield, namely:

Rose **Bateman**, Pam & Tony **Clewes**, Sandra **Clifton**, Graham **Cocking**, David & Pat **Dent**, Abraham **Doku**, Andrew **Goodhead**, Gerald **Hardy**, Philip & Laurel **Luscombe**, Andrew & Helen **Maguire**, Imran **Malik** & family, Len & Brenda **Maskell**, Deirdre **Metcalf**, Patricia **Sakyi**, Brian **Surrey**, and Judy & Alan **Turner-Smith**.

If you are at church on 15th December and can help by taking cards for people who are absent please let me know.

Andrew Tredinnick

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 1st December Gift Service 11am
 Gifts of craft items will be welcomed
 for Demelza Children's Hospice

Sunday 22nd December Carol Service 6.30pm.

Tuesday 24th December Christmas Eve Communion
 9.15pm

Wednesday 25th December Christmas Day All Age Worship
 9.15am



JMA AWARDS

On 13th October we held our JMA Service when our JMA collectors were awarded their certificates for their collections for 2018-19. Dinah Anaman, our JMA secretary, reported that during the year a total of £684.97 had been collected for JMA., nearly double the amount of £349.74 collected during the previous year. Congratulations to all our collectors for their efforts over the year. 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.

PRAYER SATURDAY

25TH January 2020 10am-3pm

A simple Prayer Saturday with a wide variety of Prayer Stations, comfortable seats, incidental music and a slide show on the screen. There will be brief meditations at the beginning and end of each hour.

Light refreshments will be available all day including lunch time. People can come for all or part of the day, and there will be time to chat as we share refreshments in the Side Hall.

Book the date now!

METHODIST TALENTS FESTIVAL

It has been decided that the Talents Festival will continue, and the next festival will be held on a date to be fixed in April 2021.

Our Church has always taken part in the Festival and it is an enjoyable event. However, by the time of the next Festival, I shall be a few weeks short of my 80th Birthday and will have been the Anerley representative in all the various forms the Festival for 50 years! I think someone else should now take over!

Basically the job is to receive all the Festival details and Syllabus from the organiser, advertise and distribute the details within our church, find out which classes our members wish to enter, send to the organiser details of our entries, and collect up and take any handicraft entries to Shirley Methodist Church for judging. Prior to the Festival date, advertise the Festival Day and distribute the timetable to those taking part in the live classes and any one else who is interested. If you want to be more involved you can join the Festival Committee, which is made up of representatives from many of the churches which take part, and you can then have a say on the running of the Festival and which classes should be included or dropped, but this is not mandatory. **Please speak to me if you are interested in taking on this job.** Marian

LIVING WELL

We have received the following letter from Living Well, who were the recipients of our Harvest gifts this year.

A huge thank you for Harvest donations 2019.

I am writing to thank you for your generous Harvest donations to Living Well Bromley. We have been so encouraged by your generous support, and the support of our community. Our container is near to bursting and extra donations have had to be stored in the church.

The timing has been perfect as we are seeing increasing numbers of people come to the food bank which is a trend seen nationally. As winter approaches, we expect a further increase in demand with people having to make the difficult choice between heating their homes or eating.

The foodbank at Living Well is a lifeline in more ways than one. Living Well supports vulnerable and homeless people by providing hot meals, food bags, housing and debt advice and a welcoming, safe place where they can come and feel cared for. Many of the people who come to us are in financial difficulties, others are struggling with addiction, mental health or social isolation. All our services are free, and we never turn anyone away. Thanks to generous donations like yours, we can provide support and friendship to nearly 200 people each week; many of whom have nowhere else to turn.

We couldn't run Living Well without the support of the local community. Every penny and item of food donated will help us help others. We are so grateful for your generosity.

God Bless

Rev. Nick Read , Co-Chair, Living Well Bromley

COOKERY CORNER

West Country Pudding

Serves 5 - 6. Cooking time 1 hour.

Oven temperature 375°F/ 190°C/ Gas mark 5

Ingredients

Pastry

175gr (6 oz) self-raising flour 75gr (3oz) suet

Water to mix

Topping

40gr.(1½ oz.) margarine 75gr (3oz) soft brown sugar

Filling

675gr (1½ lb) cooking apples, cored and sliced.

50gr (2 oz) sugar

Method

1. Mix together dry pastry ingredients with sufficient water to make a firm but pliable dough.
2. Cream together topping ingredients and spread on the bottom of a well-greased 900ml (1½ pint) pie dish.
3. Roll out $\frac{2}{3}$ of the pastry and use to line the dish.
4. Fill the dish with sliced apples, sprinkle with sugar, finishing with a layer of apples.
5. Roll out the remaining pastry to cover the apples and seal the edges firmly.

6. Bake in the centre of the pre-heated oven, on a baking tray, for about an hour or until golden.
7. Turn out the pudding on a large dish, the sauce will run out and cover the dish.
8. Serve hot with custard or cream. Enjoy!

Ann Vickery

OXFAM

In acknowledging our recent pledged giving donation OXFAM have written:

Over the past three months you have collected £155 to help beat poverty for good. This is enough to train three community volunteers in Ethiopia to deliver public health campaigns on safe hand-washing practices, waste disposal and keeping water clean.

This is just one example of the incredible difference you can make. The time and energy you give to fight against poverty will have a lasting impact on the lives of men, women and children facing truly desperate situations.

I would also like to thank those of you who give regularly and to ask if there is anyone else who would like to contribute to the pledged giving scheme please do speak with me.

Valerie
November 2019

CIRCUIT NEWS

Following the departure of the Rev. Dee Yeadon, the Circuit Leadership team have been successful in finding a Supernumary Minister to join the Circuit on a part-time basis and offer short term pastoral care to our churches at Forest Hill and Wesley Hall Sydenham.

The Rev. Paul Hulme has recently retired to Shirley, Croydon. He is a highly experienced Methodist Minister who for a period was Minister at Wesley's Chapel, City Road. He will begin work in our Circuit on 1st December and will work with us until the end of the Connexional year (late August).

PRE-SCHOOL NATIVITY SERVICES

The Pre-School are holding two short nativity services on Monday 16th December, at 11.15am and 1.15pm. Please come to one of the services and support the Pre-School children, parents and staff. Each service will be about 30 minutes long, and there will be refreshments and a Christmas sale afterwards.



Penge Churches Housing Association (PCHA)

In October PCHA celebrated its 50th Anniversary with a special reception at Portcullis House, Westminster, hosted by local MP, Robert Neill. Some seventy guests, including past & present board members, staff, tenants and supporters joined together to celebrate the achievements of the past 50 years. There was a moving video presentation featuring an existing tenant who shared her experiences of having been without a home of her own until being helped by PCHA.

The Association was formed by a group of volunteers drawn from the churches in Penge & Anerley concerned about the state of the housing market and the difficulty local people were experiencing obtaining affordable accommodation. The problems highlighted in the television docu-drama shown at the time – *Cathy Come Home* – touched hearts across the country and prompted many people to try to ‘do something’ to help. Most of the issues raised then are still with us today, with a huge number of Londoners unable to get onto the property ladder or afford private renting, while many more have to live in overcrowded and unsuitable housing.

PCHA started with just one property, but over the years has steadily developed and is now responsible for nearly 270 units, with plans to deliver another 40 homes during the next five years. Being a small social homes provider means that it is able to maintain closer and more personal relationship with tenants than is possible with larger organisations.

Members from both our church and Upper Norwood church have been involved with the Association throughout almost its entire existence, with several having served on the board of management, committees and the Friends’ organisation. Anerley church is also a shareholder.

Andrew Tredinnick



Penge Community Pre-School

Leader: Chloe Edgington

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
- Assembly of God Mission in London** Tel: 07429 263 407 .
(Brazilian Church) Saturday 6—10pm
- Harlequins Theatre School** Monday 4.30-6.30pm Tel. 07773 066 645
- Hill Dance Academy** Tel; 07772 199 103
Tues. 4.30 –8.30pm; Sat 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
- Only Believe Christian Assembly** Tel.020 8778 0863
Tues 7.30pm to 10.30pm
- 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 420050
- Yoga Classes** Mons & Weds 7.45pm –9.15pm Tel. 07940 509 910

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351511

Email:wendy.blenman@ntlworld.com

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DECEMBER

Sun 1st	Gift Service 11am led by Valerie Tredinnick
Wed 4 th	Wednesday Club 8pm: Cat Bingo
Sat 7th	A Christmas Afternoon at Wesley Hall Methodist Church 2pm-5pm
Mon 9th	Christian Action Group 8pm at 32 Lloyds Way. Advent Readings
Wed 11 th	Wednesday Club 8pm: Holiday Slides 2019
Sat 14th	Advent Quiet Morning: Imagining the Nativity. 10am—13.00pm at Upper Norwood Methodist Church
Mon 16th	Pre-School Nativity Services 11.15am and 1.15pm at the Church
Wed 18th	Wednesday Club 8pm: Christmas Readings
Sat 21st	Candlelit Carols: A service of Light. 6.30pm at Upper Norwood Methodist Church
Sun 22 nd	All Age Worship 11am. Preacher: Rev. Richard Grocott
Sun 22nd	Carol Service 6.30pm led by Rev. Abe Konadu-Yiadom
Tue 24th	Christmas Eve Communion 9.15pm
Wed 25 th	Christmas Day All Age Worship 9.15 am
Sun 29th	All Age Worship led by the Worship Leaders
Tue 31st	Circuit Watchnight Service 11.15pm at Lewisham Methodist Church

JANUARY

Wed 8 th	Wednesday Club 8pm: Quiz of the Year
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Sun 12 th	ALL MAGAZINE ARTICLES TO MARIAN TODAY
Wed 15 th	Wednesday Club 8pm: Memories of a Life in Crime
Sat 18th	Church meeting to discuss the Methodist Church Report on Marriage and Relationships 10am—4pm.
Sun 19th	Covenant Service 11am. Preacher : Rev. Abe Konadu-Yiadom
Mon 20 th	Christian Action Group 8pm at 163 Clock House Road, Business Meeting
Wed 22 nd	Wednesday Club 8pm: Social evening
Sat 25th	Prayer Saturday 10am—3pm
Sun 26th	All Age Worship 11am. Led by the Worship Leaders
Wed 29th	Wednesday Club 8pm: Beetle Drive

FEBRUARY

Wed 5 th	Wednesday Club 8pm Dominoes
Mon 17 th	Christian Action Group 8pm at 28 Chesham Road. Speaker: David Lemmon
Thur 20th	Church Council 8pm in the Side Hall

Morning Services are held every Sunday at 11am. During December Holy Communion will be celebrated on the 15th, and All Age Worship will take place on 1st (Gift Service), 22nd, and 29th. In addition, Christmas Day will be All Age Worship (9.15am). In January Holy Communion will be celebrated on 19th (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. During December the evening service will be on 22nd (Carol Service) and in addition Holy Communion will be celebrated on Christmas Eve (9.15pm). During January evening services will be on 12th (HC) and 26th. .