

# ANERLEY CENTRE ECHO



## LENT 2020

The Newsletter of

**ANERLEY METHODIST CHURCH**

Oakfield Road

Anerley

London SE20 8QA

USEFUL CONTACTS (as at 01.01..20) All prefix 020

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Church Council Secretary		
Treasurer	Andrew Tredinnick	8658 2347
Property Steward	David Hynes	8289 3524
Property Bookings	David Hynes	8289 3524
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Junior Church Secretary	Janice Friend	8659 2905
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Wednesday Club	Marian Young	8402 6618
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**ALL CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE NEXT MAGAZINE  
(EASTER EDITION) SHOULD BE GIVEN TO MARIAN  
YOUNG BY SUNDAY 8TH MARCH 2020**

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

**February/March 2020**

**Volume 51 Number 5**

## **FROM THE MINISTER**

Grace and peace, in the name of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
Amen.

Few things pack up and disappear so quickly as the Christmas spirit! After what seemed like months of preparation, for many people the point of Christmas seem to have evaporated after any unwanted presents have been recycled, the last remnants of the turkey have been transformed into a final dish, and the pine needles have been swept from the floor, or loitering the streets waiting to be collected for recycling.

Few, if any, celebrated the traditional 'Twelve Days of Christmas', which fell on 6th January, thus losing that gradual sense of unwrapping the Divine Mystery that is the Incarnation, (God in human body). For the gift of the Christ-Child is not only for Christmas; He is for the whole of the year. Jesus is God's outrageous gift of generosity Who takes us from the reality of the incarnation to the unfolding realisation of Who and what God is in the Epiphany (revelation). The Festival of the Epiphany calls us to 'see, understand and act', not only on who Christ is, but who that makes us. The sacred story of the revelation centred on the journey of the wise men who followed a star, enigmatic symbol of the search for Truth. What they encountered was embodied love and they returned home a different way – forever **changed**. This story encourages us to follow in their footsteps.

February 2nd is Candlemas, also known as the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus Christ and the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary'. It is a Christian Holy Day commemorating the presentation of Jesus at the Temple. The Feast is based on Luke's account of the presentation of Jesus (Lk 2:22–40), which in accordance with Leviticus 12: a woman was to be purified by presenting lamb as a burnt offering, and either a young pigeon or dove as sin offering, thirty three days after a boy's circumcision. This falls on February 2, traditionally the 40th day of the

Christmas–Epiphany season. While it is customary for Christians like us in the West to remove Christmas decorations on the Twelfth Night (Epiphany Eve), those in other Christian countries historically remove them on Candlemas. On this day too, many Christians, including Methodists take their candles to church, where they are blessed and then used for the rest of the year; serving as a symbol of Jesus Christ, who referred to Himself as the Light of the World.

Soon after this, we enter Lent. Beginning with Ash Wednesday Service on 26th of February. At this service, the palm leaves and crosses saved from last year's Palm Sunday are burnt into grey ashes and smeared in the shape of a cross onto the foreheads of Christians. This is a powerful symbol, for those brave enough to walk down the streets, marked with this prominent Lenten sign, signals for all Western Christians the beginning of Lent, following Jesus who he spent 40 days in the wilderness prior to three years of itinerant ministry. It is a period of reflection for us, one described by my colleagues the Revds Paul Wood and Ian Worsfold who write:

... You call us to the wilderness  
to concentrate the mind  
on letting go of many things  
that stifle humankind.  
(You call us to the wilderness, website only)

Often, we think of Ash Wednesday as a day of confession. We may pray with St Augustine:

*O Lord, the house of my soul is narrow; enlarge it that you may enter in. It is ruinous, O repair it! It displeases Your sight. I confess it, I know.*

But Ash Wednesday is not just about repairing ourselves as individuals. It is also about re-establishing good and balanced relationships with those around us.

In the Eastern Catholic and Orthodox traditions, the beginning of Lent is signalled differently – not just on a different date but with a different day. “Clean Monday”, a day of strict fasting, reminding Eastern Christians that Lent begins with good intentions and a desire to clean our spiritual house. On this day, and frequently throughout Lent, Christians pray the Prayer of St. Ephrem the Syrian.



**Icon of St Ephrem the Syrian** (Photo by Troubageoff, Wikimedia Commons)

*O Lord and Master of my life, keep from me the spirit of indifference and discouragement, lust for power, and idle chatter. Instead, grant to me, your servant, the spirit of wholeness of being, humble-mindedness, patience, and love. O Lord and King, grant me the grace to be aware of my sins and not to judge my brother; for you are blessed now and ever and forever. Amen.*

It's a prayer for self-awareness and of awareness of all our Christian brothers and sisters. And should we choose to read or speak these words this year, will we also take note that these are the words of a Syrian man? Will we picture in our minds other Syrians, our sisters and brothers who have been made homeless and chosen to run from the places they know best because of war, oppression, and complex international relationships? Will they, and others like them, be part of our Ash Wednesday reflections on the flawed behaviour of humankind, and of our roles in that?



As Jesus showed in the wilderness, Lent provides us with tremendous opportunities to enable us to connect our own experiences with the ongoing story of salvation, reminding us of God's eternal love and faithfulness.

At Easter we will celebrate the resurrection, the most important feast in the Christian calendar. But we begin with Lent as a time to ready ourselves for that great feast. We are invited to let God find us where we are. God has the same question to ask each of us: "Where are you?" During this Lent we can make time to look at where we are in our lives and discover God's presence anew. We are challenged to make time to listen to his word. We are invited to let him get close to who we are and how we are.

### **Brexit Bible Studies**

It will not have escaped our attention, friends, that we are currently living through a time of tumultuous change in the United Kingdom's relationship with the European Union. As the UK's planned departure from the European Union approaches, there is increasingly the need within our communities for space to come together, to listen, to reflect and pray, to learn from and celebrate one another and the other.

The period leading to this has had the potential to create division and distress amidst the uncertainty of what happens next, and about which the

moderator of the Church of Scotland writes 'I believe that there is a place for the Church to work for hope, unity and peace'. (The Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, Rt Rev Susan Brown). This is why she is inviting congregations to open their doors, in partnership with other local churches and congregations, to provide spaces of welcome, and reflection: spaces in which our communities might come together and demonstrate hope in the face of uncertainty, belonging instead of rejection, and a joy in one another that surpasses our disagreements or political differences.

As the body of Christ, the Church must exist beyond human borders; our calling to live out the generous love of God in our communities, in our country, in Europe and beyond remains, steadfast and unchanged.

Traditionally Lent is a time when we give up some things or take up some things. Whatever we do, it would be a good idea to allow the word of God to get close. The word comes to question who we are; it comes to support the kind of people we could be. We could make a little time – five or ten minutes each day – to let the word form us as it formed Jesus. Let it influence what we do and say. Let the word of God find us so that we can emerge from our hiding places into the peace of God's presence.

Mindful of this, I hope you can join us for our Lent "Brexit Bible Studies", compiled by the Church of Scotland. There are many stories of Jesus meeting with diverse groups of people - people from different backgrounds, with different points of view and attitudes about who the 'insiders' or 'outsiders' might be, or thoughts on what was the right way to act in certain places at certain times.

These stories touch on lots of different issues about how we live out our faith and embody our prayers at this time of political unrest. As we spend time reading scripture, reflecting on it individually, talking about it together and trying to make sense of things; it is worth being aware of how we are actively listening to each other and whether we agree or not, how might we acknowledge, understand and make room for other points of view.

The six-week Studies will be based on the following stories:

Week One: Jesus Anointed at Bethany (Mark 14 NRSV)

Week Two: Jesus at Levi's table (Luke 5 NRSV)

Week Three: The Parable of the Widow and the Unjust Judge (Luke 18 NRSV)

Week Four: The healing of a demon-possessed man (Luke 8 NRSV)

Week Five: The Mission of the Seventy (Luke 10 NRSV)

Week Six: The Canaanite Woman's Faith

Each of the stories has different characters and situations, so it might be helpful to use all of them or to focus on a few that seem particularly relevant. As we spend time in the presence of God reading through these texts, we will be invited to listen for the still small voice of God. Part of the process is cultivating the ability to listen deeply. After reading the story, there'll be 'reflection' questions to aid us in finding deeper meaning to the stories, or to help us think how we might encounter Jesus through them.

Hospitality is a much needed virtue in our search for Christian unity. It is a practice that calls us to a greater generosity to those in need. The people who showed unusual kindness to Paul and his companions did not yet know Christ, and yet it is through their unusual kindness that a divided people were drawn closer together. Our own Christian unity will be discovered not only through showing hospitality to one another, important though this is, but also through loving encounters with those who do not share our language, culture or faith.

In such tempestuous journeys and chance encounters, God's will for his Church and all people comes to fulfilment. As Paul will proclaim in Rome, this salvation of God has been sent to all peoples (see Acts 28:28).

## **WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2020**

"They showed us unusual kindness" (Acts 28:2)



Although by the time you receive this, the 2020 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2020 will have passed, it is nonetheless worth noting its significance to our Lenten discussions and Christian life. This year's materials was by the Christian churches in Malta and Gozo (Christians Together in Malta). On 10th February many Christians in Malta celebrate the Feast of the Shipwreck of St Paul, marking and giving thanks for the arrival of Christian faith on these islands. The reading from the Acts of the Apostles used for the feast was the text chosen for this year's Week of Prayer.

The story begins with Paul being taken to Rome as a prisoner (Acts 27: 1ff). Paul is in chains, but even in what turns out to be a perilous journey, the mission of God continues through him. This narrative is a classic drama of humanity confronted by the terrifying power of the elements. The passengers on the boat are at the mercy of the forces of the seas beneath them and the powerful tempest that rages about them. These forces take them into unknown territory, where they are lost and without hope.

The 276 people on board the ship are divided into distinct groups. Although all are afraid and vulnerable, the prisoners in chains are the most vulnerable of all. Their lives are expendable; they are at risk of summary execution (27: 42). As the story unfolds, under pressure and in fear for their lives, we see distrust and suspicion widening the divisions between the different groups.

Remarkably, however, Paul stands out as a centre of peace in the turmoil. He knows that his life is not governed by forces indifferent to his fate, but rather is held in the hands of the God to whom he belongs and whom he worships (see 27: 23). Because of this faith, he is confident that he will stand before the emperor in Rome, and in the strength of this faith he can stand before his fellow travellers and give thanks to God. All are encouraged. Following Paul's example, they share bread together, united in a new hope and trusting in his words.

This diverse and conflicted group of people runs aground "on some island" (27:26). Having been thrown together in the same boat, they arrive

at the same destination, where their human unity is disclosed in the hospitality they receive from the islanders. As they gather round the fire, surrounded by a people who neither know nor understand them, differences of power and status fall away. The 276 are no longer at the mercy of indifferent forces, but embraced by God's loving providence made present through a people who show them "unusual kindness" (28:2). Cold and wet, they can warm and dry themselves by the fire. Hungry, they are given food. They are sheltered until it is safe for them to continue their journey.

Today many people are facing the same terrors on the same seas. The very same places named in the reading (27:1, 28:1) also feature in the stories of modern-day migrants. In other parts of the world many others are making equally dangerous journeys by land and sea to escape natural disasters, warfare and poverty. Their lives, too, are at the mercy of immense and coldly indifferent forces – not only natural, but political, economic and human. This human indifference takes various forms: the indifference of those who sell places on unseaworthy vessels to desperate people; the indifference of the decision not to send out rescue boats; and the indifference of turning migrant ships away. This names only a few instances. As Christians together facing these crises of migration this story challenges us: do we collude with the cold forces of indifference, or do we show "unusual kindness" and become witnesses of God's loving providence to all people?

Hospitality is a much needed virtue in our search for Christian unity. It is a practice that calls us to a greater generosity to those in need. The people who showed unusual kindness to Paul and his companions did not yet know Christ, and yet it is through their unusual kindness that a divided people were drawn closer together. Our own Christian unity will be discovered not only through showing hospitality to one another, important though this is, but also through loving encounters with those who do not share our language, culture or faith. In such tempestuous journeys and chance encounters, God's will for his Church and all people comes to fulfilment. As Paul will proclaim in Rome, this salvation of God has been sent to all peoples (see Acts 28:28).

I hope you will join us on this meaningful 'Lenten' journey. For now, I hope this prayer in anticipation, will challenge us to the call of Lent.

**Incarnate God, father of all creation,**

May this Lent be a time of risk as never before

May this Lent be a time of risk as never before:

the risk of being still;

the risk of listening;

the risk of being vulnerable and open to the touch of love;

the risk of meeting Jesus as he walks the roads and streets on his way to Jerusalem;

the risk of following him;

the risk of trusting him;

the risk of calling others to his cross and to his empty tomb.

Lord, set us free this Lent to be your people and your church. **Amen.**

**With every blessing for Ash Wednesday, Lent and Easter.**

**Revd Abe, your Minister**

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## **INTROIT FOR THE NEXT 4 MONTHS**

Holy. holy, holy.

With joy my heart adores you!

My heart cries out to worship you:

Holy are you, Lord!

*Argentinian liturgical text,*

*translated by Maggie Hamilton*

Songs of Fellowship no. 779

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**ROUND THE FAMILY**

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 Rose Bateman, the Rev. Graham Cocking, Ronnie Butler, Casa Ricci Social services, Abraham Doku, Forest Hill Methodist Church, Joan Loring, Rev. Philip and Laurel Luscombe, Starfish Asia, Rev. Judy and Alan Turner-Smith, Aaron Yusuf and family, and Wesley Hall Methodist Church

Marian

**DISTRICT SYNOD—VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

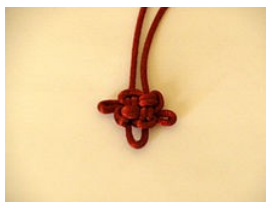
The Spring London District Synod takes place on Saturday 25th April 2020. The District Office are looking for volunteers to assist at the Synod as general assistants, stewards and scrutineers. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the London District Office admin team on [admin@methodistlondon.org.uk](mailto:admin@methodistlondon.org.uk) or call 0207 654 3850

## NEWS FROM RICCI SOCIAL SERVICES

The following is taken from Encounter, the RSS newsletter; if you would like to read the whole letter, the December edition is available to read on the noticeboard in the Church vestibule.

“In this Christmas letter I want to thank you for your friendship and for all the support you have given to us during the year. As we prepare to start 2020, I should like to share with you some thoughts and news regarding our common mission. To do so, I will use the image of a Chinese knot. In China we like to use Chinese knots to express our best wishes and hopes to our relatives and friends at the beginning of the Chinese New Year.

Chinese knots are one of the most beautiful and simplest handicrafts in Chinese art. They are made be one thread. The larger the thread it uses, the bigger and more beautiful the knot becomes. Chinese knots are a parable of our lives. They are also a parable of the sort of society we would like to build. We can build a “short-thread” society which discards and hides those who live at its margins, We do so when we regard them as “problems that need to be solved”, rather than the missing pieces of a society that is still broken or incomplete. Or we can build a “long-thread” society that integrates. A society in which everyone counts as important and unique. A society that invites those at the margins to stand at its centre. Harmonious societies that integrate, and look like big and beautiful Chinese knots”.



## **CHURCH VACANCIES**

The next meeting of the Church Council in February will be considering church appointments for the next year.

The main appointment to be filled is that of Church Council Secretary. The main duties are to take the Minutes at the two Church Council meetings a year, and the yearly General Church meeting, and to distribute relevant documents prior to the meetings. This could be shared between two people if needed. Please see Marian Young for further details.

We are also looking for the following—

a World Missions Secretary. Please see Sandra Hynes for more details.

A Methodist Homes Secretary. Please see Valerie Tredinnick for more details.

The General Church Meeting will be held in the Spring and at that meeting the Stewards and representatives to the Church Council will be appointed. Please give some thought about whether you can fill either of these posts. For more details about the duties of a Steward, or of a representative to the Church Council, please see Marian Young.

We are always looking for more people to take part in the services by reading a Bible passage, or by taking up the Offering. Please see Anita Yusuf if you would like to help in this way.

If you would like to join the Door Stewards' rota, welcoming people to church and distributing hymn books etc., please see Marian Young.

If you would like to help with serving tea and coffee after All Age Worship, please sign the rota at the back of the Church.

## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

### Rise, take your mat and walk

Women, men and children of all ages are called to Rise, take your mat and walk to join this day of prayer. Women of Zimbabwe have prepared this year's service and they encourage us all to reflect on the difficulties and unrest that have plagued their country over many years. They share the challenges they have met and the hopes they have for the future. They encourage us to "Rise, take your mat and walk " with them as they continue their often turbulent journey towards full reconciliation.

World Day of Prayer is an international inter-church organisation which enables us to hear the thoughts of women from all parts of the world, their hopes, concerns and prayers. The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 170 countries. It begins in Samoa and prayer in native languages travels throughout the world- through Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas - before finishing in American Samoa more than 36 hours later.

This year our local service will be held on **Friday 6th March 2020 at 7.30pm at Penge Congregational Church, Penge High Street.**



## **COOKERY CORNER**

### **Sugarless Low Fat Pineapple cake**

You will need a 20cm (8 inch) cake tin, well greased.

Ingredients to serve 6 to 8 portions

425 gr. (15oz) can of pineapple in natural juice

450 gr. (1 lb) mixed dried fruit

5 ml (1 oz) mixed spice

50 gr. (2 oz) corn oil

2 medium eggs, at room temperature

225 gr. (8 oz) 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 three minutes only and then leave until absolutely cold (preferably overnight).
4. Beat the eggs, then blend eggs and flour into the fruity mixture in the saucepan.
5. Bake at Gas mark 3 (325°F/170°C (150°C for fan oven)) for about 1½ hours, covering if necessary.
6. Test if done with a skewer, or the point of a long knife.
7. When cold, store in the refrigerator.

Ann Vickery



## **CIRCUIT EVENTS**

### Eltham Park Methodist Church

A Concert by Eltham Park Pleasant Sunday Afternoon Orchestra on Sunday 23rd February at 3pm. Light classics, popular standards, show selections and favourite hymns. Admission free. Refreshments available.

### Circuit Leap Year Missions Event

Saturday 29th February at Burnt Ash Methodist Church.

10am—12 noon: coffee, bric-a-brac, books, bring and buy.

12 noon—2pm Lunch; 3pm-5pm Afternoon tea.

Drop in when you can. Donations invited. Profit will be divided between three Methodist Mission Funds—World Mission, Mission in Britain, Methodist Women in Britain Projects

### Circuit Envisioning Day

Saturday 28th March at Lewisham Methodist Church from 10am to 4pm, led by Rev. Nigel Cowgill, Chair of the District,

The day is expected to run from 10am, with two morning sessions, lunch. An afternoon session, communion, and finish around 4pm. The idea is to discuss the changing nature of the Circuit, and look at ways to share the Good News today and tomorrow. All are welcome.



## **Penge Community Pre-School**

**Leader:** Chloe Edginton

**Anerley Methodist Church**

**Deputy Leader:** Sue Charlesworth

**Oakfield Road**

**SENCO:** Dawn McConochie

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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. 07429263407  
(Brazilian Church) Saturday 6pm –10pm
- 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
- Only Believe Christian Assembly** Tel.020 8778 0863  
Tues. 7.30 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 420 050
- Yoga Classes** Weds. 7.45pm—9.15pm Tel. 07940 509 910

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### FEBRUARY

Mon 17th	Christian Action Group 8pm at 28 Chesham Road, Penge, SE20 7RJ Speaker: David Lemmon
Wed 5 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday Club 8pm Dominoes
Wed 12 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday Club 8pm Valentine's Evening
Wed 19th	Wednesday Club 8pm Programme Planning
Thur 20th	Church Council 8pm at the Church
Sun 23rd	All Age Worship 11am led by the Worship Leaders
Sun 23rd	Pleasant Sunday Afternoon Orchestra, 3pm at Eltham Park Methodist Church
Wed 26th	No Wednesday Club. Ash Wednesday Service 7.45pm at Upper Norwood
Sat 29th	Circuit Leap Year Missions Event 10am—4pm at Burnt Ash Methodist Church

### MARCH

Mon 2nd	Lent Study 8pm in the Side Hall
Wed 4 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday Club 8pm
Fri 6th	Women's World Day of Prayer 7.30pm at Penge Congregational Church
Sun 8 <sup>th</sup>	MAGAZINE ITEMS TO BE GIVEN TO MARIAN!
Mon 9th	Lent Studies 8pm in the Side Hall
Tue 10th	Pastoral Committee Meeting 7.45pm at Church
Wed 11 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday Club 8pm
Mon 16th	Lent Studies 8pm in the Side Hall
Tue 17th	Christian Action Group 8pm at 103 Birchanger Road SE25 Speaker: Rev. Pam Clews
Wed 18 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday Club 8pm

Thur 19th	Circuit Meeting 7.45pm at Sunfields Methodist Church
Sat 14th	Special Saturday 10am—3pm. More details later
Mon 23rd	Lent Studies 8pm in the Side Hall
Wed 25th	Wednesday Club 8pm
Sun 22nd	Mothering Sunday All Age Worship, 11am
Sat 28th	Circuit Envisioning Day at Lewisham Methodist Church 10am-4pm

### APRIL

Sun 5th	Palm Sunday
Mon 6th	Lent Studies 8pm in the Side Hall
Thur 9th	Maundy Thursday
Fri 10th	Good Friday service 9.15 am
Sun 12th	Easter Sunday

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.