

ANERLEY CENTRE ECHO



CHRISTMAS 2020

**The Newsletter of
ANERLEY METHODIST CHURCH**

Oakfield Road
Anerley
London SE20 8QA

USEFUL CHURCH CONTACTS (as at 01.09.17 All prefix 020

Church (Minister is not available on this number)		8289 6771
Minister	Rev. Abe Konadu-Yiadom	8653 4902
Church Council Secretary	Marian Young	8402 6618
	Julie Taylor	8778 5881
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		
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

EDITOR: Marian Young phone: 020 8402 6618 E-mail
m.young23@ntlworld.com

**ALL CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE NEXT MAGAZINE SHOULD BE
GIVEN TO MARIAN YOUNG BY SUNDAY 10TH JANUARY 2021**

Church website: www.anerleymethodist.org

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FROM THE MINISTER



Grace and peace from our Lord Jesus Christ.

I'd like to share some excerpts from Secretary of Conference, The Revd. Dr. Jonathan Hustler's September pastoral letter to presbyters, one pertinent to our current situation of lock-down and the future. He writes:

"During the months when we have been unable to sing (or at least, in my case, to do more than warble hesitatingly at a screen bearing the legend 'You are muted. Press alt-A to unmute'), one hymn has been my particular companion. As is not unusual, it came unbidden into my mind in March and has remained there ever since. It is John Henry Newman's '**Lead, kindly light**'. On 19 March we took the decision at Methodist

Church House to ask everyone to work from home until further notice. The evening as I left 25 Marylebone Road was cold and miserable; there was indeed an 'encircling gloom' and it was not just the drizzle and the crepuscular fading of the light. It was anxiety.

Newman wrote 'Lead Kindly Light' on his much delayed journey back to England from a tour of the Mediterranean in 1833. He came to believe that the journey home, and in particular a period of illness that he had experienced in Italy, marked a seminal moment in his spiritual development. Somehow, although very ill, he was certain that he would not die 'for I have not sinned against the light.' Even Newman did not know what he meant by that peculiar remark. His strong notion of providence led him to believe that there was a guiding light that he was following even in his darkest and most uncertain hours and it had not finished with him yet. The Sunday after he arrived back in England, John Keble preached a sermon on 'National Apostasy' and, in Newman's view, the Oxford Movement was born. The Church of England, the Church in Britain, would never be the same again.

Without doubt, we are living in a period of transition and we long to know what awaits us at the end of the journey. It might well be that the Church in Britain will never be the same again but we don't know what 'not the same' means. Having attended a couple of services over the last few weeks - masked, with no hand-shaking but multiple opportunities to sanitize, deprived of music, and conscious of the many who could not be there or who reluctantly chose not to be there - I've been left with a sense of the impermanence of the current arrangements. We do not want to live or to worship like this for long. Yet perhaps the peculiar nature of the current arrangements makes us more conscious of the guiding light – we in our inhibited way affirm that we are still God's people and that God has not finished with us yet.

‘Keep thou my feet. I do not ask to see the distant scene, one step enough for me.’ It is not always easy to remain content with not seeing the distant scene. We naturally want to know what church **and life* will be like when we are finally free from all the COVID-19 restrictions, whenever that might be. But nobody knows the answer to those questions. We cannot see the distant scene. As Gordon Wakefield argued in his insightful little book, *Kindly Light*, the image is of a candle; the kindly light is not a searchlight that would reveal everything but a flame that shows us enough. Living in this way can be hard. The very phrase ‘kindly light’ is perhaps a prompt to be kind in dealing with each other when none can see the distant scene.

Without the light of ‘garish day’, it seems to me, we are called to live prayerfully and gently, with the assurance that God is with us and is giving us the light that we need. “(The Revd. Dr. Jonathan Hustler, September 2020)

Lead, kindly Light,
amid the encircling gloom,
lead thou me on;
the night is dark, and I am far from home,
lead thou me on.
Keep thou my feet; I do not ask to see
the distant scene; one step enough for me.

I was not ever thus, nor prayed that thou
should’st lead me on;
I loved to choose and see my path; but now
lead thou me on.
I loved the garish day, and, spite of fears,
pride ruled my will: remember not past years.

So long thy power hath blessed me, sure it still
 will lead me on,
 o'er moor and fen, o'er crag and torrent, till
 the night is gone;
 and with the morn those angel faces smile,
 which I have loved long since, and lost awhile.
(John Henry Newman 1801-90)

Circuit Advent Course 2020 on ZOOM
‘Watching and Waiting’
Weekly, from Monday, 23rd November to Monday 14th
December, 7.30 - 9pm

In a change to previously advertised, this year's Advent Course 2020 will be led by our circuit ministers, detailed as below:

Week 1: THE WATCHTOWER: STAY AWAKE - The Revd Abe
Konadu-Yiadom

Week 2: LISTENING TO THE VOICE OF GOD - The Revd Richard
Grocott

Week 3: JOHN THE BAPTIST - The Revd Charles Ilunga

Week 4: DEVELOPING A LISTENING HEART - The Revd Rohama
Asif

You can also do some preparatory work by downloading the course from the London District website at: https://b2d085cf-ea51-4e1f-b8a8-1520c1e10af1.filesusr.com/ugd/e0f447_360ea2de84f6497d8c0cc1993b3a851e.pdf

I hope you can join us at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86835350197?pwd=M05CRy9HZXNLOEtSTFiRIRkNlpmQT09>

Meeting ID: 868 3535 0197 Passcode: 961642

You can also join by phone by dialling one of the numbers below and follow the prompts. +44 203 051 2874 United Kingdom +44 203 481 5237.



With every blessing,
Abe Konadu-Yiadom (Presbyter)

ROUND THE FAMILY

We were sorry to hear of the death of Jock Ballantyne at the beginning of October. Older readers may remember that Jock and his wife Evelyn were active in the church and Youth Club in the 1950's and 1960's and Evelyn has written of the fond memories she has of their time at Anerley. Our thoughts and prayers are with Evelyn and her family at this time.

For many of us, Christmas will be different this year as we will be unable to celebrate with family and friends as we have done in the past. Whatever you are doing, remember that, whatever others may say, Christmas is not cancelled! We will still celebrate the birth of the Christ-Child, wherever we are and whatever our circumstances. A Happy Christmas to you all!

Marian

BLACKHEATH AND CRYSTAL PALACE CIRCUIT

**“CHRISTMAS HAS BEEN
CANCELLED!!”**

ON THE CONTRARY

AWE – our Circuit Alternative Worship Experience
is looking **forward with ANTICIPATION**

to celebrate the most momentous fact of human his-
tory

God came to earth in human form.

THE PROGRAMME

We start on **22nd November 2020**, the Sunday before Advent.

The angels announced to the shepherds - “Peace on earth to all” - so ‘Peace on Earth’ is our topic of encouragement for 22nd November. ‘Let it begin with me’

Advent Sundays we have Playlists of songs and reflections with the themes:

Sunday 29th November - Emmanuel – God with us

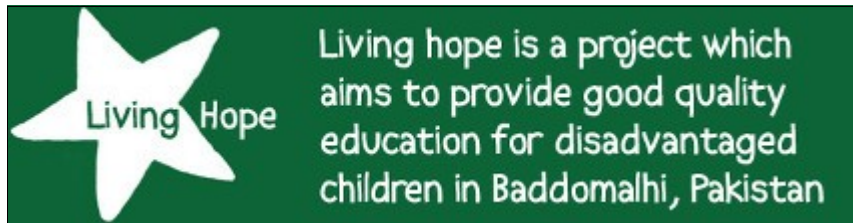
Sunday 6th December - Mary and her role in the whole of Jesus’ life

Sunday 13th December - Glory and Honour to our God, Christ on earth

Sunday 20th December - Songs and videos which tell the story

On Christmas Day we celebrate the fact that it is Christmas Day

Sunday 27th December we have as many traditional Christmas Carols as we can cram in!



Dear Friends,

It is good to write to you again after a long period of uncertainty and not knowing what tomorrow might bring. Despite these uncertain times, I hope you and your loved ones are doing well.

After a long period of absence, our students have returned to their classrooms. Like all of us, the lockdown has not been easy for them. We have put all the measures in place to make the Living Hope School COVID Secure. As they catch up with their learning, our students' wellbeing is our priority. We have created a safe learning environment at the school. They have been provided with facemasks, hand sanitizers and seating arrangements are socially distanced. Living Hope is extremely grateful for your continued support and prayers.

As you know children grow up fast and the school furniture that we had was no longer suitable. During the lockdown, we upgraded school furniture and carried building work. We are improving school facilities regularly.

Despite all the challenges we are facing globally we are hoping and praying for an exciting future for all the children.

With your support, we will continue to help and support our students and the local community. We are instilling hope and confidence in young minds and the impact of it will be greater than of our current circumstances.

Please continue to pray for the work of Living Hope and its community! Thank you!

God bless,

Rev Imran Malik

Looking After our Mental Health and Well Being

Some of us may be feeling lonely during this Covid-19 outbreak, especially if we are staying at home. We miss our family, we miss our friends, we miss our colleagues. and our every day connections with people. You've probably looked at your four walls how many times!! This is quite common for all of us – so its okay to feel like this. Just remember it won't last forever....

Here are 7 tips that can help – think about what feels right for YOU

Connect with Others

Use the phone, message regularly, set up a WhatsApp group,
video calls /zoom – so you can see each other and talk at the same time

Share Your Feelings

Talk to someone you can trust about how you are feeling. Don't compare yourself to others – it may not always be what it seems. People only share the good stuff on social media.

Get a good night's sleep

Take time to relax – doing things you enjoy
Do not stay glued to watching the news and social media only

Look after your body

Eat healthy well balanced meals – try out new recipes and eat regularly.

Drink water and exercise daily

Volunteer to help

Helping others – Can boost your mental well being. Volunteer from home or in the community – following government guidelines if going out. Become a phone buddy for someone. You could make new friends while volunteering

Exercise

Exercise daily either at home - going for a walk –green spaces/outdoors help well being – online exercise classes. Physical activity boosts self esteem and lifts mood

Stay Busy

Learn something new – online choir, a new language, DIY – Give it a go, lots of classes are free. Various groups online can help and support 24 hours a day.

Having a good mental health and well being helps us to relax more, achieve more and ultimately we enjoy our life More.

If you would like more information visit the Every Mind matters web-site

Audrey Bobb-Sayers

ENVELOPE SCHEME

If you would like to have offertory envelopes for next year, can you please let Anita Yusuf know as soon as possible. Can you also let her know whether you would like them delivered to you or whether you will pick them up at the Church (providing we are meeting again for services.)



Christmas carols 1,000 feet under: A past tradition.

Britain has had some rather unusual local traditions when it comes to celebrating the approach of Christmas. Many of these traditions no longer persist. Today, they just remain in the folk memory.

I started my working life in the northern half of England in a very bleak spot on the North Staffordshire moors. My workplace was what was formerly Britain's largest and most productive colliery.

Sadly, the decline of Britain's coal industry and the importation of cheap coal from abroad led to the closure of hundreds of collieries and the redundancy of thousands of coal miners. Communities were devastated by this economic downturn. My job was to help oversee the transformation of what had been a thriving and highly productive colliery into an industrial museum situated 700 feet underground.

Many of the ex-miners with whom I worked had been, or were, members of the many small Methodist chapels that dotted the Staffordshire landscape. These had formerly been Primitive Methodist chapels. Mow Cop, the traditional hilltop gathering-place for large numbers of Primitive Methodists at their 'camp meetings', was only six miles up the road from the colliery.

Miners worked long hours in very difficult and dangerous conditions at depths approaching 2,000 ft. below the surface. The miners only had Christmas Day off (as did the pit ponies that were brought to the surface for just one day of the year!) to spend time with their families.

One local Staffordshire tradition, as echoed by miners elsewhere in England and Wales, was for the miners to organise a lively underground carol service 'down the pit' a few days before Christmas.

A local Methodist minister would often be engaged to lead the underground service dressed in best suit, dog collar, and borrowed pit helmet. Miners who played musical instruments – perhaps accordions or fiddles – would take their instruments along with them to accompany the singing. Most collieries had brass bands. It was not uncommon in some Welsh pits for all the members of the colliery band to take their instruments underground in the pit cage to give a rousing accompaniment to the carols.

Miners were proud of their centuries-old singing tradition. Quite a few miners had been members of the chapel choir, village choral society, or male voice choir.

So, singers, musicians, miners, and the local chapel minister gathered in the bowels of the earth to sing all the favourite Christmas carols accompanied by the constant sound of drip-

ping water and the creaking of old wooden pit props. This was in the days before hydraulic metal pit props were used to stop the mine roof from caving-in!. The sound generated by the carol-singers and musicians must have been sensational as it echoed and bounced along the long 'roads' and shafts of the coal mine.

For the coal miners, their place of work was turned into a temporary 'chapel'. God can indeed be worshipped and praised in any setting, even at Christmas-time!

Peter Boreham

(The photo at the top of this article is of Yorkshire miners singing carols down the pit, around the 1960's)

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

There will be NO service on Christmas Eve, but it is proposed that the usual Christmas Day All Age Worship will take place, at 9.15am.

If COVID-19 restrictions are lifted at the beginning of December, services will take place on Sundays 6th December (Gift Sunday) and 20th December (Carol Service) at 11a.m.

We are hoping to have a Zoom Christmas Celebration in words and music on the afternoon of Sunday 13th December. Watch out for further details!





Thanks to Julie Taylor

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, peeled, cored and sliced.

50gr (2 oz) sugar

Method

1. Mix together dry pastry ingredients with sufficient water to make a 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.

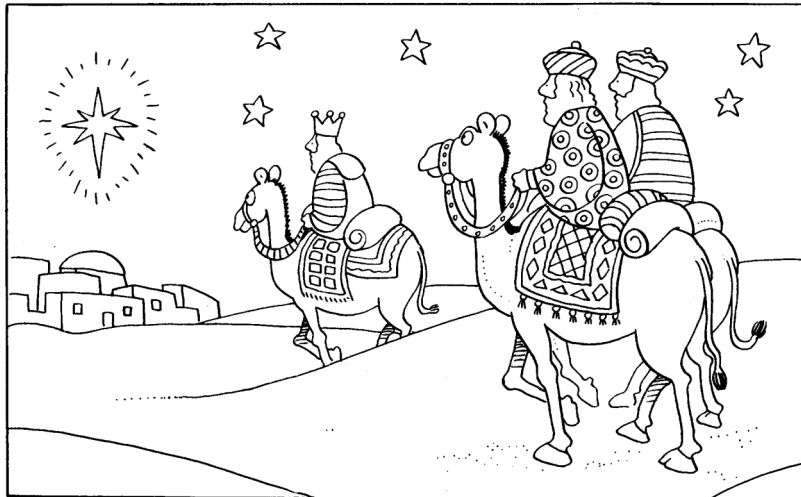
To use up a glut of apples at this time of the year.

Ann Vickery

FOR OUR YOUNGER READERS

a star in the East

WHO SAW A STAR IN THE EAST, AND
FOLLOWED IT? (MATTHEW 2: 1-2)
HERE IS A PICTURE TO COLOUR.





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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Amaze Penge Tuesday 10am-12 noon term time Tel.07882 760 828
Campbell School of Dance Friday 4pm-7pm Tel. 020 8777 7529
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
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

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351511

Email:wendy.blenman@ntlworld.com

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