

**ANERLEY CENTRE
ECHO**



EASTER 2021

**The Newsletter of
ANERLEY METHODIST CHURCH**

Oakfield Road,
Anerley
London SE20 8QT

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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
Missions Treasurer	Sandra Hynes	8289 3524
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E-mail m.young23@ntlworld.com**ALL CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE NEXT MAGAZINE SHOULD
BE GIVEN TO MARIAN YOUNG BY SUNDAY 9TH MAY 2021****Church website: www.anerleymethodist.org**

April/May 2021
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Easter Prayer

*This prayer has been written by the Revd Michaela Youngson.
(Joint Chair of the London District of the Methodist Church)*

When everything was dark
and it seemed that the sun would never shine again,
your love broke through.

Your love was too strong,
too wide,
too deep
for death to hold.

The sparks cast by your love
dance and spread
and burst forth
with resurrection light.

Gracious God,
We praise you for the light of new life
made possible through Jesus.
We praise you for the light of new life
that shone on the first witnesses of resurrection.
We praise you for the light of new life
that continues to shine in our hearts today.

We pray that the Easter light of life, hope and joy,
will live in us each day;
and that we will be bearers of that light
into the lives of others.
Amen.

ROUND THE FAMILY

Please remember Maureen Cole, who went into hospital in mid-March for an operation. By the time you read this, Maureen should be at home recovering, and we hope that she will be feeling better soon.

Marian

RETURN TO WORSHIP

As COVID-19 restrictions begin to be eased, we hope that we shall soon be able to return to regular worship at our church in some form. Please note that two services have been planned for the Easter season - Palm Sunday 28th March and Easter Sunday 4th April, both at **9.15 am**. Further details of our return to regular services will be provided in due course.



Magazine Distribution

Over the last year, since the start of the first lockdown, the magazine has mainly been distributed on line, though a few hard copies have been available. If you would prefer to have a hard copy rather than read it on line please let me know, and I will make arrangements for you to receive one. My contact details are inside the front cover.

Marian

John Wesley: The perils of being a Preacher

John Wesley was determined that nothing would ever stop him from preaching and sharing the word of God. The *Journal* that John Wesley kept recounts in graphic detail the dangers and opposition that he faced as he travelled the land - mostly alone - on horseback. Here are a few entries from the *Journal*.

Travel in 18th Century Britain was slow, dangerous and unpredictable. The roads were potholed and treacherous. John Wesley was thrown from his horse on more than one occasion as he travelled the country. In January 1748 Wesley relates **...we were met by a wagon in a deep hollow way... When the wagon came near, my horse began to rear and to attempt climbing up the bank. This frightened a horse which was close behind and made him prance and throw his head to and fro, till the bit of the bridle caught hold of the cape of my great coat and pulled me backwards off my horse...by the blessing of God, I rose unhurt, mounted again, and rode on.**

On another occasion John Wesley nearly drowned when crossing the River Severn by ferry. **Many stood looking after us on the riverside. When we reached the middle of the river, in an instant the side of the boat was under water and the horses and men rolling one over another. We expected the boat to sink every moment, but I did not doubt of being able to swim ashore. The boatmen were amazed as well as the rest; but they quickly recovered and rowed for life. And soon after, our horses leaping overboard, the boat was lightened, and we all came unhurt to land.**

There were many occasions when John Wesley's outdoor preaching was interrupted by rioting mobs. Effigies of Wesley were publicly burned. He was heckled, stoned, physically assaulted and threatened with death. Sometimes he had to be rescued.

On more than one occasion John Wesley felt that his life was saved by divine intervention, such as when he preached in Bolton and the stones and rocks hurled by the mob began to cascade down. **They then began to throw stones; at the same time some got upon the Cross behind me to push me down; on which I could not but observe how God overrules even the minutest circumstances. One man was bawling just at my ear, when a stone struck him on the cheek and he was still. A second was forcing his way down to me till another stone hit home on the forehead; it bounded back, the blood ran down, and he came no farther. The third, being close to me stretched out his hand, and in the instant a sharp stone came upon the joints of his fingers. He shook his hand and was very quiet till I concluded my discourse and went away.**

It was not uncommon for the mob to interrupt John Wesley's services by driving a bull or oxen either into the church where Wesley was preaching or, if outdoors, into the crowd of listeners. One service was interrupted by a Press Gang turning up to seize members of the congregation. Another service was interrupted when the church floor collapsed under the weight of the large and enthusiastic congregation!

Houses that Wesley stayed and preached-in were occasionally surrounded by baying drunken mobs who launched an attack and threatened to set fire to the premises. On one oc-

casian in London the mob ...**violently thrust many persons to and fro, struck others, and broke down part of the house, which, forcing their way wherever they came, fell down, together with the tiles, among the people, so that they were in danger of their lives.**

Whilst preaching at Wednesbury in Staffordshire Wesley encountered a full-scale riot but had a miraculous escape ...**I having lost only one flap of my waistcoat and a little skin from one of my hands.**

Wesley records some of the injuries he received during the course of his ministry. **Two years ago, a piece of brick grazed my shoulders. It was a year after that that the stone struck me between the eyes. Last month I received one blow, and this evening...one man struck me on the breast with all his might, and another on the mouth with such force that the blood gushed out immediately. I felt no pain from either of the blows than if they had touched me with a straw.**

John Wesley was utterly determined to preach the word of God whatever the opposition and difficulties he encountered. Tens of thousands of people were converted as a result of his extraordinary and courageous itinerant ministry.

Peter Boreham



Walking in the shadows of memorable people

The happy days of Kent Kapers

At this time thirty years ago I would have been busy making arrangements for Kent Kapers. This was a sponsored walk devised by Mike Young and me which took place for some 15 years from the end of the 1980's through to 2003 and raised money for both the Bible Society and the Friends Organisation of Penge Churches Housing Association. The idea had its origin in the Surrey Stroll – a sponsored walk organised by the Bible Society in the Surrey Hills. Several church members had taken part in this event for a year or two before the Great Storm of 1987 which caused widespread devastation to many wooded areas across the south of the country. So many foot-paths were blocked by fallen trees that the Surrey Stroll the following year had to be cancelled. Mike, however, thought that it might be possible for us to arrange a walk locally. As he was the Treasurer of the PCHA Friends Organisation and I was a member of the PCHA Management Committee we decided our alternative walk would support both PCHA and the Bible Society.

I'm not sure which date we settled on the first year or two, but eventually it became fixed in the calendar for the May Day Bank Holiday. The event was centred on Leaves Green, a large grassed area beside the main road between Keston and Biggin Hill. A choice of routes was offered namely, 5, 12, 16 and on a few occasions 20 miles. All walkers shared the opening 2¾ mile section which included a stiff climb to the first check-point at Keston Common, and also the final gentle mile across undulating fields on the return to Leaves Green.

The Walk was seen very much as an ecumenical venture and, particularly as far as PCHA was concerned, an opportunity for the churches in Penge & Anerley to demonstrate their support for this organisation set up in 1969 by local Christians in response to the housing needs of the area. Besides walkers from our own church the event was well supported by members from the local Baptist and Congregational churches together with some Anglicans and individuals from further afield. On occasions we had over 40 participants but generally the figure was in the mid 20's to low 30's. Some older supporters, who could not manage the Walk, still came along for the day and staffed the base at Leaves Green. There they could provide information to any casual enquirers asking what was going on, as well as keeping an eye on all our cars. Because many people returned year after year it was a good way of establishing friendships across the various church denominations.

I'm sure we had the odd shower, but memory tells me we were blessed with dry and sunny days. However, Leaves Green is an exposed spot, noticeably higher than much of Penge & Anerley, and the stalwarts manning the start/finish all day sometimes had to contend with some chilly winds. Hetty Thatcher and Regina Trevor (Maple Road Baptist) made sure they wore plenty of layers on such days! Mike, Marian and Valerie would drive between the check-points at Keston Common, Wash Houses and Cudham to monitor progress and provide water; while I was a roving marshal going to and fro along the routes, checking for any problems. In the course of the day I covered quite a few extra miles!

As Mike and I had organised the event acting on behalf of our

own church we were able to rely on the church insurance company to provide cover for everyone taking part. Fortunately, we never had to make any claim. It was also a requirement of our insurers that the Police had no objection to the event taking place and were satisfied with the route(s) being walked. I am pleased to say this was always forthcoming.

Every walker was issued with a set of directions for the route they had chosen. The first year I remember walking the routes several times: first to see that footpaths and bridleways marked on the OS map agreed with what was on the ground, a second time to check that my written instructions to the walkers were correct, and a third to be sure that any amendments made to the first draft made sense. Each year thereafter I would walk the routes again noting anything that had changed and updating the instructions where necessary. It paid off because we never lost anyone!

The route was quite varied passing through fields with cattle and, on the Cudham loop, alpacas; fields with crops, which changed over the years, with cereals and broad beans etc. or which sometimes had been left fallow; wooded areas, with bluebells and daffodils, the air pungent with the smell of wild garlic; plus a golf course or two. The check-point at Wash Houses, adjacent to the intriguingly named Bogey Lane, had picnic tables and was where most walkers stopped for a leisurely lunch and a chat.

Other features of interest included the oak tree and memorial seat commemorating *William Wilberforce* and his decision to introduce legislation to abolish the slave trade; the source of the River Ravensbourne at Caesar's Well (a natural spring, so named I believe because there had been a *Roman* settle-

ment nearby); the two largest of Keston's attractive ponds; the villages of Farnborough and Downe, the latter being where *Charles Darwin* lived for many years who no doubt collected botanical specimens from alongside the same paths we were walking; and of course Biggin Hill airfield with its association with '*The Few*' and the Battle of Britain.

The main body of walkers set off at 10am sharp, though there were always two or three late starters who followed on. There were many opportunities for conversation and good natured banter. Some less regular walkers found the event quite challenging, while others just skipped round even the longer options. However, everyone was normally back by 4pm.

From the finishing line it was possible to look back about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile to where walkers on the home leg came into view over the brow of a slight rise on their way across the final field, sometimes bright yellow with flowering oilseed rape. Those who had already completed the walk would challenge each other to try and identify who was going to arrive next. On one occasion my nephew Dean had brought his dog with him. The dog had set off eagerly in the morning, and was still going strong by the lunch stop, but on reaching the end of the walk could not bring itself to jump into the back of the car, so Dean had to lift him up and place him there. His pads were sore. Glad to say he made a full recovery - as did the dog!

The Foot & Mouth outbreak of 2001 caused the cancellation of the Walk that year. On resumption the event did not attract so many people as previously and the last walk took place in 2003. It seemed strange to have the May Day Bank Holiday free again. There was no doubt that organising the day was hard work for a number of us, but always worthwhile, particu-

larly as it was a rare opportunity for the churches of Penge & Anerley to do something together. It was also an excellent way to raise money for two good causes.

Andrew Tredinnick



I am a complete anorak about hymn writers, and the much-loved and inspirational words they have created down the years until the present day. My absolute favourite writer, though, is Charles Wesley. The theological accuracy of his writing is awe-inspiring. The poetry of his words still rings with beauty and feeling today. Most of all, though, he is one of the first writers to express his personal relationship with God in his hymn texts. When he used words like 'I' and 'me', his brother John often felt Charles was being over-emotional and too familiar in his language to God - but surely this emotional, devoted man has created a legacy of deeply personal hymn texts which touch our souls today just as much as they flowed from his soul then.

Pam Rhodes
Songs of Praise presenter

CASA RICCI SOCIAL SERVICES, MACAU

Several of our congregation support the work of Casa Ricci Social Services through what we used to call “The Refugee Tin”, now looked after by Andrew Tredinnick. At Christmas we received the newsletter of the Casa Ricci Social Services, and an excerpt from the Editorial is given below. If you would like to read the whole of the newsletter, with details of their work amongst Aids and leprosy patients, please let me know and I can send you a copy.

“To serve with our entire heart, strength and mind

“Good sailors know how to use their sails to propel their boats using the strength of seemingly opposite winds. I think this has been our experience in Casa Ricci during these months. To learn how to use the winds of COVID-19 to strengthen ourselves to become better servants in our mission to serve.

“Fr. Luis Ruiz started Casa Ricci as a community of persons who want to serve and accompany people who were in greater need, willing to go wherever they are. As an expression of Love, service requires integrity. This means that our mission to serve should be integrated in all the dimensions of Casa Ricci’s life: our identity (who we are), our service (what we do). And our know-how (how we do it). Service requires our entire hearts and strength, but also our entire minds. We should be able to explain to anyone who asks us how we serve, and show to him that our service is effective and efficient in transforming persons’ lives. During year 2020, the pandemic has given us the opportunity to learn how to make our service programs more effective and efficient.”

Fr. Fernando Azpiroz SJ
Chairperson, Casa Ricci Social Services
Macau

WALKING THROUGH LOCK DOWN

I started going for a walk every day last March, when the first lock down started. Everyone was allowed to go out for exercise every day and so I decided to do so, as a way of getting out of the house and seeing something new each day.

I started small—barely 20 minutes—but soon increased to about 30 minutes a day, which is what I have continued doing. I am a steady walker, so I cover about 1½ miles a day. I have occasionally missed a day, when I have been waiting in for deliveries, phone calls etc. but I try to walk a bit further on other days to make up for it. Occasionally I don't walk as far, depending on the weather - I don't walk far if it is icy or slippery, as I am worried about slipping. I try to walk for at least 15—20 minutes on these occasions I reckon that I walk between 9½ - 10½ miles a week).

I started by walking around the roads near to me, and I am lucky that where I live in Beckenham there is a large network of quiet residential roads, so if I want I can spend the whole of my walk without going near a main road. I have since walked a little further afield, usually going to South Norwood Country Park once a week, and occasionally driving to Kelsey Park, Cator Park or the Crystal Palace

Sometimes I feel a bit reluctant to go out, especially if the weather is cold, but once I get out, and into the rhythm of walking, it's not so bad, as long as I have warm clothes and comfortable shoes (essential!). There is a Scandinavian saying, "There is no bad weather, only inappropriate clothing"!

Many of the people I pass smile or even say "Good Morning" - people on the whole seem more friendly - and I have twice got into conversation with birdwatchers in the South Norwood Country

Park. Although I know a bit about birds, I am not that good at identifying the less common birds, and I try to nod knowledgeably when they talk about water rails, redwings and egrets!

Walking is also good for helping to sort out your thoughts, if you have a decision to make, or an important letter or email to write, or a problem to solve. I am lucky that my arthritic knees are not too affected by walking on the flat, it's only steps that cause me problems, so I will keep walking as long as I am able.

I am aware that many of you are much more seasoned walkers than me and are used to walking much longer distances, and I can only admire you!

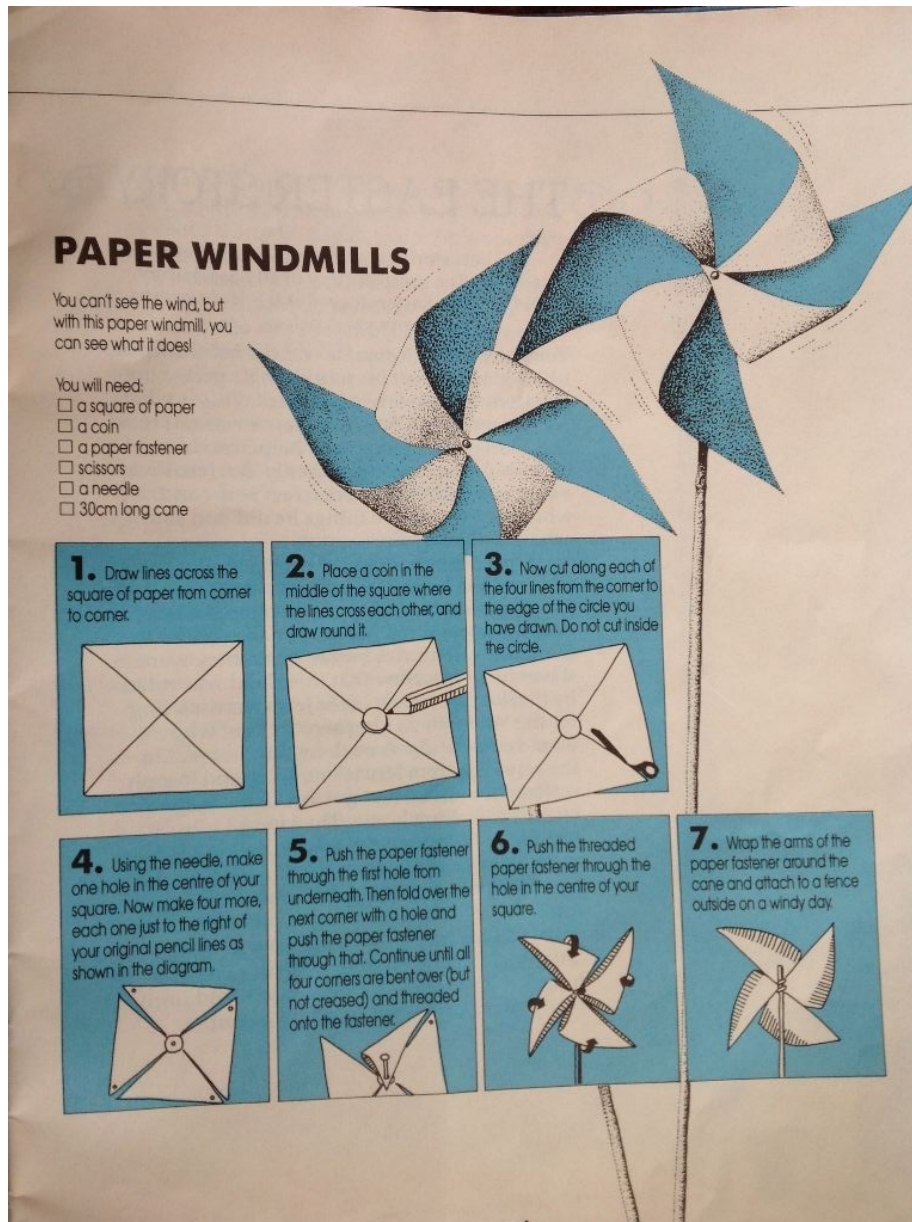
Marian

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The World Day of Prayer, prepared by the women of Vanuatu, took place this year on Friday 5th March and because of Covid-19 restrictions we were not able to gather together for our service in a local church. Instead, we went on-line and held the service via Zoom! During the planning there had been much worry about whether it would work, but on the night everything went smoothly. The participants from the various churches read their parts, we sang to various musical accompaniments, and there were no hitches! There were 64 people watching, mainly from churches in Penge and Anerley, but some from churches in Beckenham who will be holding their service later in the year, and one person from Lincolnshire! Thank you to Julie Taylor for organising the evening and to Lynn McShane from Penge Congregational Church for looking after the technical side! I understand that Julie has had several messages since saying how much the evening was enjoyed, and how inspiring people found it.

FOR OUR YOUNGER READERS

Thanks to Anita for providing this Easter windmill for you to make.



COOKERY CORNER

Eve's Pudding

Ingredients

Cake Mixture

100gr. (4 oz) margarine
100gr (4 oz) caster sugar
2 medium eggs
100gr (4 oz) self raising flour

675gr. (1½ lb) cooking apples
50gr (2 oz) sugar

Method

1. Heat the oven to 180° C, 350° F, Gas Mark 4.
2. Grease an ovenproof dish
3. Thinly slice apples and layer in dish with sugar
4. Prepare cake mixture and use to cover apples
5. Bake for about 40 minutes
6. Serve with custard or cream

Happy Easter everyone,

Ann Vickery



Penge Community Pre-School

Leader: Chloe Edgington

Anerley Methodist Church

Deputy Leader: Sue Charlesworth

Oakfield Road

SENCO: Dawn McConochie

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REGULAR CHURCH USERS

(Some users may be affected by current Government guidelines regarding COVID-19 restrictions - please contact the relevant group for more information)

- Amaze Penge** Tuesday 10am-12 noon, term time Tel. 07882 760 828
- Campbell School of Dance** Friday 4pm to 7pm Tel. 020 8777 7529
- 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
- Only Believe Christian Assembly** Tel.020 8778 0863
Tues 7.30pm—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 5.30pm;
- Tai Chi** - Thursday 8pm - 10pm Tel. 01424 420 050

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