

ANERLEY CENTRE ECHO



CHRISTMAS 2021

**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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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
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**ALL CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE NEXT MAGAZINE SHOULD BE
GIVEN TO MARIAN YOUNG BY SUNDAY 9TH JANUARY 2022**

Church website: www.anerleymethodist.org

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FROM THE MINISTER



Mary: voice of joy

'My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me – holy is his name'.(Luke 1. 46-49)

These words, spoken by Mary when she visits her cousin Elizabeth, are commonly known as Mary's Song or The Magnificat (short for the Latin, *magnificat anima mea dominum* – my soul magnifies the Lord). It is a song of unspeakable joy, an outpouring of praise and the most magnificent psalm of worship in the New Testament.

Mary could have been as young as 13 or 14 when she encountered the angel Gabriel. She was probably poor, used to a life of working the land and daily household duties. Certainly, as a woman, she would have had little or no status in a patriarchal Jewish society; women had no role in society other than to bear children. Mary had no say in her future, and, like other Galilean women, her husband would have been decided on and negotiated by the senior men in her wider family.

So, having already been betrothed to Joseph, her unexpected pregnancy would have come as very unwelcome news. Mary's life had been mapped out and now everything had changed. Maybe this is why she is sent to visit her cousin Elizabeth for about three months while things

'settled down'. It's a recipe for social disgrace and yet, when the two women meet, there is an explosion of joy and celebration.

Elizabeth, having already experienced God's blessing, is filled with the Holy Spirit and immediately proclaims the blessing that is upon Mary. Mary responds with an outpouring of joy and praise to the Lord. Women in a remote corner of Palestine at that time had no opportunity to read or write; instead they would have relied on oral tradition- they used their voices. The women in the wider family would spend much of their time together, singing psalms, chanting verses, reciting passages, worshipping and praying together, the older women retelling their stories and events from the scriptures.

Mary would have been immersed in scripture and would intimately know the Torah (the first five books of the Hebrew Bible), for guidance, comfort, instruction, worship and praise. Her words resonate with the generous voices of other women- from Miriam on the deliverance of the Israelites from Egypt to Hannah's voice in the famous hymn of praise she creates for the birth of Samuel (! Samuel 2:1-10)

Mary's song is a beautiful mosaic of Old Testament verses woven together, announcing that God has acted to bring Israel a messiah. Her song wonders at the generosity of God to his people and how blessed she is to receive his favour.

As was customary in Jewish prayers, Mary recites God's past faithfulness to his people; she recalls how God has helped Israel and kept his promises. Now her child is to become the living fulfilment of God's saving promise. Later in Luke 2:19, Mary's response is to 'treasure up all these things and ponder them in her heart', but right now her heart is overflowing with joy, and she uses her voice to pour out praise and thanksgiving. Mary is the first person to experience authentic salvation – the good news - and she proclaims it extravagantly.

In the busyness of Advent and the Christmas holiday season, it can be easy to forget that sometimes our most generous gift is the time and attention we offer to others. May this Advent and Christmas be a time for each of us to kindle, or rekindle, a spirit of gratitude and our own verses of praise to the Lord and promises he has fulfilled and may we echo Mary's praise and thanksgiving for all that God has done for us.

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in God,
 Who came to this earth as a child,
 Was born to unmarried teenage parents,
 And was quickly made a refugee.
 We believe that this child grew up to heal the sick,
 See the poor,
 Dine with outcasts,
 Welcome foreigners,
 Wash the feet of sinners,
 Offer second chances,
 And bless the children.
 And so we believe that Christmas is only the beginning.
 The dream does not end with a manger.
 The dream ends with God's promised day.
 So until all God's children are home,
 We will follow the Magi's lead—
 Walking, seeking, and looking up.
 May it be so, for this we believe. Amen.

Prayer

Divine Voice,

In the beginning, it was you, who spoke through angels; to Mary and Joseph and the Shepherds.

You have always been speaking in words, in memories, in songs, and in dreams. This Advent and Christmas, as we prepare to hear your word read aloud, we ask that you speak to us, once again, so that we might speak this same Good News to others. **Amen.**

Pastorally....

We remember all those who are sick or will be facing Christmas without someone they love. In particular we remember the Hynes family, on the first anniversary of Sara: mother, daughter, wife, grandmother, daughter-

law and friend.

For those who have gone before us
 Seeds planted in your rich pasture
 With the hope of life eternal
 May their enduring spirit live on
 Enriching and empowering our lives
 Their love linger, their presence be near
 Until we meet once more.

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We remember, too, our Junior Church and those who care for them:

"Then Esau looked up and saw the women and children. "Who are these with you?" he asked. Jacob answered, "They are the children God has graciously given your servant." " (Genesis 33:5)

Bless our children, Lord,
 growing up into a future
 that is difficult to predict.
 Protect them, guide them
 and give them wisdom
 to see above and beyond
 the tempting choices
 this world may offer,
 that they might become
 the people who, in your eyes,
 always meant to be. Amen

they were

www.faithandworship.com/

Finally, please join us for a contemplative '*service with carols*' to grieve our losses while holding on to the reality that Jesus is the Light and Saviour of the world. Followed by 'mince pies & 'non-alcoholic' mulled wine!

'Blue Christmas – a service of remembrance and hope'

"The light shines still, even now, in the darkness but the darkness can

never overcome it” John 1:5

WHERE: Upper Norwood Methodist Church, SE19 1TQ:

WHEN: Sunday 19th December 2021: **TIME:** 6:30pm

Wishing you, and your loved ones, a blessed Christmas!

And may the peace of the Christ-child be with you, and remain with
you in 2022, and always!

(Revd Abe K-Y)



ROUND THE

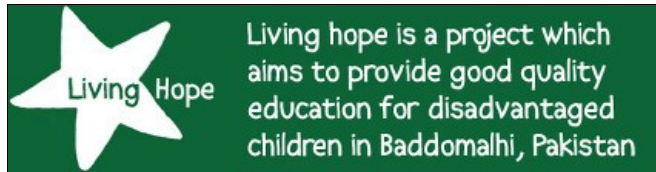
FAMILY

We were sorry to hear of the death of Frimpong, brother of Comfort Oppong and Dinah Anaman, following a stroke at the end of October. Our thoughts and prayers are with all the family at this sad time.

We were also sorry to hear of the death of Deidre Metcalfe in September. Deidre and her late husband Chris were members of our church for many years, before moving to Upton-upon-Severn, and were involved in many activities including leading Bible Studies. We remember Deidre's family at this time.

Although some things are still getting back to normal, for some of us Christmas will still be different this year. Although we may not be able to celebrate with family and friends as much as we have done in the past, we will still celebrate the birth of the Christ-Child, wherever we are and whatever our circumstances. A Happy Christmas to you all!

Marian



Dear Friends,

I hope you are keeping well and it's good to give you an update on the Living Hope School. I am writing this newsletter from Paisley, Scotland. I moved here for my new appointment to minister in a few churches here, which started on the 1st of September. It has been really busy but I am enjoying being here. People are lovely and I feel that God has a plan and purpose for me in this place. You all are in my prayers as Living Hope School and I are in yours.

All of our students, teachers, and their families are safe. The infection rate is still very low in Baddomalhi. The school reopened at the beginning of August but all the schools were closed down twice due to a rise in Covid infection in the neighbouring areas. The school reopened again on the 20th of September and all the students are back in school receiving lessons. All the covid measures are in place and hopefully children over 11 years old will start to receive their vaccination.

Most of the adult population in Baddomalhi has been vaccinated. We upgraded some of the old computers and our students are making the most of the technology. Computers and tablets have been hugely beneficial to their learning so we are still looking at buying more tablets.

Thank you very much for your continued support and prayer.

God bless,

Rev Imran Malik, 1/2 43 Kilnside Road, Paisley, PA1 1RJ

Christmas Post Boxes 2021

The boxes will be available in the Entrance Hall from Sunday 21st November. **Final collection** from the **Country Box** will be on **Sunday 5th December**. The last opportunity to post cards in the **Local Box** will be before the evening Carol Service on Sunday **12th December**. Do please note the dates.

Whilst surnames are not necessary on every envelope, do bear in mind that there are several members who share the same Christian name e.g. Anita, Hilary, Rose etc., so where appropriate do add the surname to ensure cards are delivered to the right person.

If you can help by taking cards for people who are not at the Carol Service on 12th December please let me know.

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

The **Country Box** is for cards destined for the under-mentioned friends who live away, namely:

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

We do invite donations to St. Christopher's Hospice. These can be placed in the plate alongside or handed directly to me.

Andrew Tredinnick

Some memorable Moments with Cats by Andrew T.

No. 3 Perkins (or was it Purr-kins?) by Andrew T.

The story of Perkins takes some telling. When Valerie and I moved into our house in 1969 Perkins was the long established neighbourhood moggie. He belonged to a couple who lived at the end of our terrace. He was already 'getting on'; had a shabby coat of a non-descript colour, lacy ears which carried the scars of past battles and we understood him to have both sight and hearing impairments.

A length of 6ft. high 'feather-board' fence separated us from our neighbours. It extended away from the houses for about 10ft to a post where it adjoined a lower chain link fence down the remainder of the garden. Just beyond the post was our rather dilapidated garden shed which had a shallow pitched roof. On many occasions we saw Perkins carefully make his way towards the shed (his left paws on top of the fence, his right paws down on the arris rail) which was a favoured spot for sunning himself.

I now suggest you visualise the following scene in 'cartoon strip' mode – not with a sleek and agile *Tom* as in '*Tom & Jerry*' but with a feline who, to put it mildly, was past his prime. We were both in our back room one afternoon when Perkins appeared on the fence and began making his way along to the wooden post where, after pausing, he launched himself towards the shed – except that it wasn't there – we had replaced it with a small greenhouse a day or two before!

I imagine it came as a painful surprise to discover that instead of landing on a felt roof he was now spread-eagled across the ridge of the greenhouse roof. I leave it to your

imagination to fill the 'speech bubble' emanating from his mouth.

Perkins, finding himself in this predicament realised that he had to get back to the security of the fence. Slowly he manoeuvred himself around to return the way he had come. Having got himself off the ridge he squatted on a pane of glass ready to spring back to the post. Unfortunately, as he was sizing up the jump his rear paws began to slip on the glass, causing him to misjudge his leap. For a moment it seemed he was destined to clear the fence completely, but at the very last second, just as he was about to disappear from our view, he dropped his right front paw and clung onto the very top of the fence. There was a clatter as his body rattled against the other side. All we could see was part of his paw dug unto the fence. After several long seconds, another paw and then his head appeared. He slowly hauled himself up. Then very gingerly he returned along the fence to where he got down on our neighbours' side.

Although amusing to witness I'm sure the incident really shook him up. I think with that experience he had just about used up all his nine lives.



COOKERY CORNER

Yorkshire Parkin

Ingredients

125gr (4 oz) butter	175gr. (6 oz) black treacle
150ml (¼ pint) milk	175gr. (6 oz) medium oatmeal
175gr. (6 oz) self-raising flour	
125 gr. (4 oz) dark muscovado sugar	
2 level teaspoons ground ginger	1 medium egg, beaten
18cm (7 in.) tin, lined with greaseproof paper	

Method

1. Pre-heat oven to gas mark 2, 160°C, 320°F,
2. Place the butter, treacle and milk into a pan, heat gently until butter has melted.
3. Add the flour, oatmeal, sugar and ginger, then beat in the egg.
4. Pour mixture into the lined tin and bake in the centre of the oven for 1 hour, or until the centre of the cake is firm to touch.
5. Remove cake from the oven and leave to cool in the tin for 15—20 minutes, then transfer to a wire rack to cool completely.
6. When cold, wrap in clean greaseproof paper, then foil, and keep in a cool place for 3 to 4 days before eating.

Ann Vickery

ENVELOPE SCHEME

As a majority of people now make their freewill offering by means of regular bank transfers it is no longer economical to order sets of envelopes (minimum 50) for just a handful of people. However, Andrew has unused sets from past years which are available to anyone who prefers to contribute in this way, or who wants to be able to supplement their giving from time to time. If using such envelopes please do ensure that your personal 'envelope scheme number' is written on the envelope.

It is our custom to have a separate retiring collection at services which include the Lord's Supper. These monies go to the Benevolent Fund, either to meet local needs or to be forwarded to specific good causes as announced.

Envelopes are available on the table at the back of the church. When using them do be sure to add your personal 'envelope scheme number'.

If you don't already have an 'envelope scheme number' please speak with Anita. If you would like to 'Gift Aid' your offertory - and increase your donation by 20% without yourself paying any more! please see or speak to Dave.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Christmas Gift Service Sunday 5th December 11am

Carol Service Sunday 12th December 6.30pm

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

There is no service at Anerley on Boxing Day, Sunday 26th December.



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

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 5.30pm;

Tai Chi - Thursday 8pm - 10pm Tel. 01424 420050

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Email:wendy.blenman@ntlworld.com

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DECEMBER

Wed 1st	Wednesday Club 8pm Decorating the Christmas Tree
Sun 5th	Gift Service 11am led by Hilary Waterhouse
Mon 6th	Christian Action Group 8pm in the Side Hall. Christmas Readings
Wed 8 th	Wednesday Club 8pm: Slides– Round and About
Sun 12th	No Morning Service
Sun 12th	Carol Service 6.30pm led by Valerie Tredinnick
Wed 15 th	Wednesday Club 8pm: Cat Bingo
Sun 19th	Blue Christmas—a Service of Remembrance and Hope at Upper Norwood Methodist Church 6.30pm
Wed 22nd	Wednesday Club 8pm: Christmas Readings
Fri 24th	NO Christmas Eve Communion
Sat 25 th	Christmas Day All Age Worship 9.15 am
Sun 26th	No Church Service

JANUARY

Wed 5 th	Wednesday Club 8pm: Memories of my father– Andrew Tredinnick
Sun 9 th	ALL MAGAZINE ARTICLES TO MARIAN TODAY
Wed 12 th	Wednesday Club 8pm: Quiz of the Year
Sun 16th	Covenant Service 11am. Preacher : Rev. Abe Konadu-Yiadom
Wed 19th	Wednesday Club 8pm: Darts

Mon 24th Christian Action Group 8pm in the Side Hall: Business Meeting

Wed 26th Wednesday Club 8pm: Valerie's Birthday Celebration

FEBRUARY

Wed 2nd Wednesday Club 8pm Give us a Clue

Wed 16th Circuit Meeting 7.30pm at Eltham Park Methodist Church

Thur 24th Church Council 7.45pm in the Church

Morning Services are held every Sunday at 11am. However, during December there will be no morning service on Sunday 12th . Holy Communion will be celebrated on the 19th December, and All Age Worship will take place on Sunday 5th (Gift Service). In addition, Christmas Day will be All Age Worship (9.15am). In January Holy Communion will be celebrated on 16th (Covenant Service).

There are no evening services at present, apart from on Sunday 12th December (Carol Service).

The Prayer Meeting is not meeting in person at the moment, but is meeting via email. For more details contact Margaret Boreham m.boreham5@gmail.com.