

# ANERLEY CENTRE ECHO



## CHRISTMAS 2023

**The Newsletter of  
ANERLEY METHODIST CHURCH**

Oakfield Road  
Anerley  
London SE20 8QA

USEFUL CHURCH CONTACTS (as at 01.09.23 All prefix 020

Church (Minister is not available on this number)		8289 6771
Minister	Rev. William Davis	8653 4902
Church Council Secretary	Marian Young	8402 6618
	Julie Taylor	8778 5881
Treasurer	Sylvester Oppong	07900 193 953
Property Steward	David Hynes	8289 3524
Property Bookings	David Hynes	8289 3524
Baptismal/Cradle Roll	Sandra Hynes	8289 3524
Junior Church Contact	Sandra Hynes	8289 3524
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

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m.young23@ntlworld.com

**ALL CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE NEXT MAGAZINE SHOULD BE  
GIVEN TO MARIAN YOUNG BY SUNDAY 14TH JANUARY 2024**

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

**DECEMBER 2023/JANUARY 2024**

**Volume 55 Number 4**

**FROM THE MINISTER**

‘You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus’ (Luke 1:31)

Friends, we have sang the words of the Christmas carol ‘Silent Night’ since infancy. But those words actually do not come from Scripture. ‘Silent Night’ was a poem written by an Austrian priest in 1816. The words conjure up a serene picture with the happy couple watching their newborn baby. It’s not likely, however, that there was silence. After an exhausting journey on a donkey, Joseph and the very pregnant Mary didn’t check into the master suite of the Bethlehem Grand Hotel. They begged the use of an animal shelter, complete with the clatter and scents of barnyard animals – anything but silent.

Friends, ask any mother about giving birth. Even with the help of modern pain reducing medicines and sterilised environments, the bravest woman rarely remains silent while giving birth. For Mary, Joseph and Jesus – this was hardly a silent night. ‘Oh, Holy night’; of all the nights in history, this was the most holy. God set in motion His eternal plan to come to earth as the Redeemer of lost people. ‘God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them’(2 Corinthians 5:19).

Jesus came to take on Himself the sins of doomed humanity, so ‘that we might become the righteousness of God in Him’. It does not get any holier than that. ‘All is calm, all is bright’, on

that holiest of nights, our spiritual and moral darkness was forever dispelled by Jesus, the light of the World. And our fears as lost sinners were replaced by the peace and joyful assurance that we are His eternally forgiven people.

WISHING YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR  
FULL OF THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. AMEN

Rev. William Davis

### **ROUND THE FAMILY**

We were sorry to hear of the death of Rose Acheampong's mother in Ghana in October. Our thoughts and prayers are with Rose and her family at this sad time.

We were pleased to welcome into our church family Julius Matteus Dixon at his baptism on 1st October, and to meet family and friends who came to give their support.

Everyone connected with the production of the Magazine joins me in wishing you all a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year

Marian

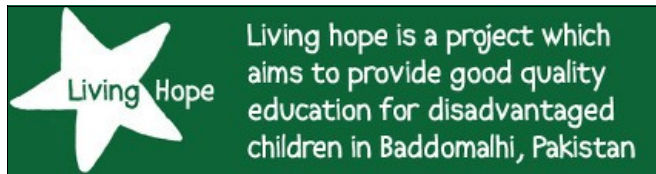
### ***CHRISTMAS SERVICES***

Christmas Gift Service      Sunday 3rd December 11am

Carol Service at Upper Norwood Methodist Church  
Sunday 10th December 6.30pm

Christmas Eve Communion    9.15pm

Christmas Day All Age Worship 9.15am.



### **Dear Friends,**

I hope you are keeping well. It is so good to bring you the updates on Living Hope School. The children have settled in after their summer holiday. They are all doing well.

This summer we had lots of strong storms in Baddomalhi and most of our solar panels were blown away and the rest were badly damaged. We were able to restore and replace them before the start of the school. We are so grateful to have them in place. Otherwise, electricity would have been very costly since the prices of electricity and fuel have risen recently. This is unfortunately due to an economic and political crisis happening in Pakistan.

This year has been tough for Christians in Pakistan after the incident in Jariwala and surrounding villages where 19 churches and hundreds of houses of very poor families were burnt down. They lost everything over the night and spent the night hiding in the open fields. Thankfully no one lost their lives. This is something that always worries us as churches and Christian buildings get targeted regularly.

This year responding to the flood-affected families at Living Hope School, the Rotary Club Beckenham raised £2150.64 to donate essential food supplies. The Rotary Club of Beckenham has supported the school in so many ways over many years our students and their

families were very grateful to the Rotary Club of Beckenham for their efforts and support. Please pray for god's protection over Living Hope School and the Christians in Pakistan.

Everyone is greatly concerned about the recent events but it has strengthened the faith of Christian communities across the countries.

Please also remember to pray for our teachers, students and their families. Thank you for your support.

God bless,

Rev Imran Malik, 10 Portland Road, Hawkhead Road, Paisley ,PA2 7GH

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## **CIRCUIT CHRISTMAS YOUTH EVENT**

**SUNDAY 10TH DECEMBER**

**5pm—6pm**

**HITHER GREEN METHODIST CHURCH**

**7—23 YEARS OLD**

**(under 12s must be accompanied)**

**FAITH, FUN, FOOD**

For more information contact Rev. Craig Gaffney,  
[craig.gaffney@methodist.org.uk](mailto:craig.gaffney@methodist.org.uk)

## Christmas Post Boxes

The **Local** and **Country** Boxes will both be available in the Entrance Hall from Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November until the morning service on **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December**.

Items placed in the **Local** Box must be for church members or people who regularly attend services or other church activities.

The **Country** Box is for cards being sent to the people named on the box.

Distribution of items in the **Local Box** will follow the morning service on **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December**. If you can help by delivering some cards to people who are absent that day please let me know.

Because several people share Christian names do ensure you write their surnames on the envelopes as well.

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

Andrew T.

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## JUNIOR MISSION FOR ALL (JMA)

At the recent JMA service, the JMA collectors were presented with their certificates for collections made in 2018/19., a total of £479.40. Owing to the disruptions caused by Covid and the various lockdowns, this was the last complete year for which collections had been made. Dinah Anaman, JMA Secretary, thanked all the collectors for their efforts, and members of the church who contributed to the collectors.

## **Andrew's Railway Journeys**

### **9. Two episodes on miniature railways**

One holiday when we were away with Hetty (Valerie's Mum) we visited the Beer Heights miniature railway in east Devon. The little train left from the Departure platform and after following a winding and twisting route through the attractive gardens completed its journey at an Arrival platform where everyone got off: except Hetty. By then, being well into her eighties, her walking was not very good but instead of expecting her to climb a footbridge to return to the station entrance, she was allowed to remain on the train while the carriages were shunted out of the platform to be repositioned once again for the next service from the Departure platform. I thought this was very considerate of the staff.

oooOOOooo

Many years earlier, Valerie and I had been on holiday at Berwick-on-Tweed (near the Scottish border). A few miles away is the Heathershaw Light Railway which runs for a mile or so between the Heathershaw Corn Mill and Etal Castle, both promoted as visitor attractions.

We were on the first service of the day to the castle and had only travelled a couple of hundred yards when the train stopped and out jumped the driver with his shovel. He set about shovelling earth back under the track. This happened twice more during our journey. He explained that the rabbits thereabouts were a nightmare. They were forever burrowing into the sandy soil on which the track was laid. Drivers had to be especially vigilant to ensure the locomotive was not tipped over!

AT



## **LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS**

**SATURDAY 2nd DECEMBER 2023**

**5.00PM—5.45PM**

A Service of Blessing for Betts Park involving local  
Churches and the Community

Everyone is welcome

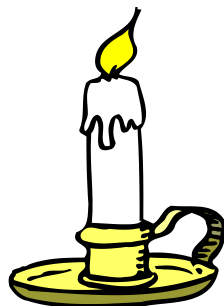
Please bring a phone or torch for light

Wear warm clothes

Free refreshments will be served

Meet at Betts Park by the Outdoor Gym in Anerley Road.

For more details please contact Jeff Hawthorne 07984  
193783 ; [jeffhawthorne@kentworkplacemission.org](mailto:jeffhawthorne@kentworkplacemission.org), or  
Walter Leonard at [bettsparkse20@gmail.com](mailto:bettsparkse20@gmail.com)





## **My Sponsored Walk, Petts Wood to Bridle Road, Shirley on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2023.**

One of the benefits of a solo walk is being able to choose a day which suits me. A careful watch of the weather forecast means I can decide to walk when the weather is set fair.

My route followed Section 3 of the London Loop (**London Outer Orbital Path**) from Petts Wood to Coney Hall, plus an additional couple of miles into Section 4, finishing at Bridle Road, Shirley – a distance of some 12 miles.

The London Loop is a recreational trail around the outer London boroughs nearly 150 miles long. The 15 sections link together many open spaces circling the capital. I completed the entire path on separate day walks during 2009, 2010 & 2011.

I belong to the Ramblers Association and have become very familiar with Section 3. Back in early 2020, just before the Coronavirus pandemic, I responded to a request for members to volunteer to keep an eye on sections of the path. The duties aren't particularly onerous – just a commitment to walk the section every 3 months and report any obstacles and missing or damaged signage. Including the links at each end to Petts Wood station and Hayes station, Section 3 is about 10 miles long. Each quarter I alternate the direction of my walk which helps to check that the way-marking is in order. A

printed guide to the Loop is available, but these days many people turn to the *Transport for London* web-site for the very latest directions.

Leaving Petts Wood the initial couple of miles are level easy walking. Jubilee Park is the first green space encountered which is followed by a length of pavement walking before reaching an attractive stretch through Crofton Wood. A little later the path enters the Nature Reserve at Darrick & Newstead Woods all the while climbing gradually before emerging above Tubbenden Meadow providing a fine view to the south.

The route then drops down to cross the A21 before rising again to pass through Farnborough village and reach the churchyard of St. Giles the Abbot. The path follows the edge of a wide meadow alongside woods of the High Elms estate where, after crossing Shire Lane, I took a refreshment break at the nearby café.

Although the country house at High Elms was destroyed by fire back in the early 1960's a rare Eton Fives Court has survived. The route now negotiates its way via the local golf club to reach Bogey Lane, an ancient by-way. Shortly however, the path diverts into a field bordering the lane and steadily rises. As height is gained there are good views to the north and south. Not today, but on other occasions, I encountered deer hereabouts.

The field path re-joins Bogey Lane before meeting Farthing Street and descending steeply to cross Shire Lane again. On the hill ahead can be seen Holwood House, once the home of William Pitt (early 19<sup>th</sup> century Prime Minister). The path now begins to climb, steadily at first before culminating in a stiff

pull up just before the Wilberforce Oak. The site commemorates the decision taken by William Wilberforce, in conversation with William Pitt, to introduce a bill to Parliament abolishing the slave trade.

The wooded path through the Holwood estate is very attractive, but the scenery gets even better as the route enters the woods above Keston Ponds and gently drops down through the main car park to join the steep steps down to Caesar's Well. This is the source of the Ravensbourne which eventually makes its way out to the Thames at Deptford Creek. The Ponds, like High Elms, always attract a good number of people, but on several stretches of the path you can walk a mile or more without encountering another soul.

A short distance of pavement walking is required to pass through Keston village to gain a wooded path that follows the edge of an escarpment providing attractive glimpses into the valley below. Although the area now entered is generally known as Hayes Common, a short way along you in fact cross into West Wickham Common. This and Spring Park, met later on, are owned and cared for by the City of London Corporation. After passing the site of an Iron-Age settlement and a last view into the valley where model-like houses can be seen below, the path descends steeply to complete Section 3 beside several ancient oaks at the edge of Coney Hall. (The section I monitor includes the link to Hayes station along nearby Pole Cat Alley).

An alleyway and a short distance of pavement walking is necessary to pass through Coney Hall to reach the local recreation ground. Here, beside the path is a small stone marking the Greenwich Meridian: so in one stride I crossed from the

eastern to the western hemisphere! There is a gradual climb to reach to the 13<sup>th</sup> century church of St. John the Baptist which stands isolated in what is a rural setting. The path makes its way through the churchyard and continues downhill across a large field which often has several horses and ponies, but not today.

Across Addington Lane the route passes over the rugby pitches at Sparrows Den. It then climbs steeply into the woods of Spring Park. The woods here are delightful but obscure any views into the valley below. Along this stretch there used to be a stone marking the Kent/Surrey border but I did not see it today. The wooded path continues into Three-halfpenny Wood and eventually bursts through the trees to reach Shirley Heath which offers a view north towards the sky-scrapers of the city of London.

On the far side of the heath I reached the bridle way leading down to Bridle Road and journey's end. Section 4 of the London Loop, however, continues westwards towards Shirley Hills, Selsdon and Hamsey Green.

My sincere thanks to everyone who has sponsored me. I expect the total sum raised to be about £350. This, together with other monies raised during the year will enable the Christian Action Group to finance a desk-top computer for a school in Ghana as well as support various other good causes.

Andrew T

PS Sometime during the coming weeks I hope to give an illustrated talk about the walk at Wednesday Club to which everyone is invited. Listen out for the date.



## **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**

**Campbell School of Dance** Friday 4pm-7pm Tel. 020 8777 7529  
**Harlequins Theatre School** Monday 4.00-6.30pm Tel. 07773 066 645  
**Hill Dance Academy** by appointment Tel; 07772 199 103  
**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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**351511**

**Email:wendy.blenman@ntlworld.com**

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



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### DECEMBER

Sat 2nd	“Light in the Darkness” service at Betts Park, Anerley Road, 5pm—5.45pm (See magazine for further details)
Sun 3rd	Gift Service 11am Local arrangement
Mon 4th	Christian Action Group 8pm in the Side Hall. Speaker: Rev. William Davis
Wed 6 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday Club 8pm:
Sun 10th	Joint Carol Service at Upper Norwood Methodist Church 6.30pm led by Rev. William Davis
Sun 10th	Circuit Christmas Youth Event at Hither Green Methodist Church 5pm-6.30pm (see magazine for further details)
Wed 13 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday Club 8pm:
Wed 20th	Wednesday Club 8pm:
Sun 24th	All Age Worship 11am Led by Valerie Tredinnick
Sun 24th	Christmas Eve Communion 9.15pm
Mon 25 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Day All Age Worship 9.15 am

### JANUARY

Wed 3rd	Wednesday Club 8pm:
Sun 7th	Covenant Service 11am. Preacher : Rev. William Davis
Wed 10 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday Club 8pm: Quiz of the Year
Sun 14 <sup>th</sup>	ALL MAGAZINE ARTICLES TO MARIAN <b>TODAY</b>

Wed 17th	Wednesday Club 8pm:
Sun 28th	All Age Worship 11 am led by Paddy Boothe
Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Christian Action Group 8pm in the Side Hall: Business Meeting
Wed 24th	Wednesday Club 8pm:

### FEBRUARY

Wed 7th	Wednesday Club 8pm
Wed 14th	Wednesday Club 8pm.
Mon 19th	Christian Action Group 8pm. Speaker: Chris Watkins
Tue 20th	Church Council 7.30pm

Morning Services are held every Sunday at 11am. . Holy Communion will be celebrated on the 17th December, and on Christmas Eve at 9.15pm All Age Worship will take place on Sunday 3rd (Gift Service). In addition, Christmas Day will be All Age Worship (9.15am). In January Holy Communion will be celebrated on 7th (Covenant Service).

There are no evening services at present.

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](mailto:m.boreham5@gmail.com).