

ANERLEY CENTRE
ECHO



CHRISTMAS 2024

The Newsletter of
ANERLEY METHODIST CHURCH

Oakfield Road
Anerley
London SE20 8QA

USEFUL CHURCH CONTACTS (as at 01.09.23 All prefix 020

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Minister	Rev. William Davis	8653 4902
Church Council Secretary	Marian Young Julie Taylor	8402 6618 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
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**ALL CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE NEXT MAGAZINE SHOULD BE
GIVEN TO MARIAN YOUNG BY SUNDAY 12TH JANUARY 2025**

Church website: www.anerleymethodist.org

DECEMBER 2024/JANUARY 2025

Volume 56 Number 4

FROM THE MINISTER

Friends, Christmas is here again and to fully appreciate the story of Christmas, we must look at three things:

Who God called to tell the story. Shepherds. In first century Palestine they were considered to be the lowest in society. Yet God picked them to tell the greatest story. Perhaps that's because some of us would have debated the story or even denied it. Not them: 'They spread the word'. This answers the question, 'Could God use someone like me?'. Yes, you don't need to be a scholar. Just tell people what you have seen and heard, and the change Jesus has made in your life.

The response of those who heard the story. 'All who heard it were amazed.' The grace of God is amazing: 'God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation'(2 Corinthians 5:19). The gospel is not good advice, it's good news. Your sin debt is cancelled; your books are reconciled, and now you can have a personal relationship with God by putting your trust in Christ. It doesn't get any better.

Mary's part in the story. 'Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart'.(Luke 2:19). She wanted to understand what God was doing, and

how it related to her. And you need to do that too. God doesn't change, but He moves, and you have to stay in step with Him. There were many things Mary didn't understand about God's will, but she accepted and obeyed it. And that's what God is asking of you too.

WISHING YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY PROSPEROUS 2025.

Rev. William Davis.

ROUND THE FAMILY

Several of our congregation have been unwell or in hospital recently, and we send them our thoughts and best wishes . In particular, Audrey Bobb-Sayers is now home, and is awaiting a placement for rehabilitation.

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

Marian

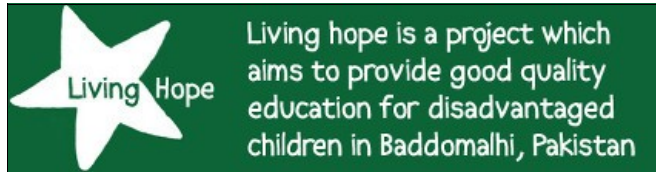
CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Christmas Gift Service Sunday 8th December 11am

Carol Service Sunday 15th December 6.00pm

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 and they are all doing well. Up till this point, we have not had a sufficient outdoor space for physical sports and other activities. The exciting news is that we hope to have an outdoor space to facilitate this but also to provide an extra learning space for the hot summer months. Incredibly, after some fund-raising and your continued financial support, we have been able to purchase a small piece of land (708 Square Meters) to provide an exciting and engaging outdoor learning environment for our students to flourish.

We hope that this space will be ready by next summer; equipped with a gardening space and playing equipment. We will plant fast-growing trees for shelter and build canopies for outdoor classes. This will make it a suitable place all year round but especially for the later spring and summer months, which is when it gets really hot. During these months our usual classrooms are not ideal for learning especially when we have an unreliable supply of electricity to run cooling fans. Our solar panels cannot cope with the demand of having fans on in all the classes without the help of the main supply of electricity. With these facilities in place, the students will be able to continue their learning in their open-air space. This will be an exciting new addition to our school facilities. The children are very excited and are looking forward to their new place.

Living Hope is aiming to raise an extra £7000 to get the space ready and to be able to buy the outdoor equipment. As I am writing this letter, we are getting trucks full of landfill soil delivered! Living Hope school is very grateful to Andrew, Valery and our Anerley Methodist Church friends for raising £365 through afternoon teas. This money has already gone to help with the extension. 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

CIRCUIT CHRISTMAS YOUTH EVENT

SUNDAY 15TH DECEMBER
5pm—7pm

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

Blackheath and Crystal Palace Circuit Advent Bible Study 2024

‘Preparing the Way’ is a four-week study. We will be meeting every Wednesday evening at 7.30pm by zoom. Everyone is welcome to any, or all, of these sessions:

Wed. 27th Nov: Study 1 ‘A World in Turmoil’ led by Rev. Richard Grocott

Wed. 4th Dec: Study 2 ‘Preparing the Road’ led by Rev. Charles ILunga

Wed. 11th Dec: Study 3 ‘The Life Required’ led by Rev. William Davis

Wed. 18th Dec: Study 4 ‘God’s Servants’ led by Rev. Craig Gaffney

We do hope that as many people as possible from across the circuit are able to join us and enjoy both the study and the cross-circuit fellowship of friends. It will be an interactive study in which we encourage all who are able participate to be involved in the discussions.

Please find below details of the recurring zoom link you would need to access this study: [https://zoom.us/j/95528625534?](https://zoom.us/j/95528625534?pwd=0bb3FJwYw8I528ice8O2C6gK5cteLC.1)

[pwd=0bb3FJwYw8I528ice8O2C6gK5cteLC.1](https://zoom.us/j/95528625534?pwd=0bb3FJwYw8I528ice8O2C6gK5cteLC.1)

Christmas Post Boxes

The **Local** and **Country** Boxes will both be available in the Entrance Hall from Sunday 1st December until the Carol Service on the evening of **Sunday 15th 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 **Carol Service**. 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.

JUNIOR MISSION FOR ALL (JMA)

At the recent JMA service, the JMA collectors were presented with their certificates for collections made over the last year, raising over £500. Following the disruptions caused by Covid and the various lockdowns, this was the first complete year for which collections had been made since 2020. Dinah Anaman, JMA Secretary, thanked all the collectors for their efforts, and members of the church who contributed to the collectors.

LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

SATURDAY 7th DECEMBER 2024

5.00PM—5.45PM

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

Hosted by the Friends of Betts Park

Everyone is welcome

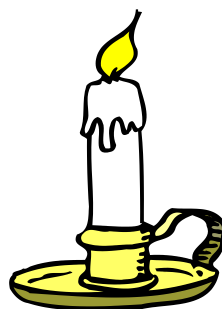
Please bring a phone or torch for light

Wear warm clothes

Free refreshments will be served afterwards at Christ
Church, Anerley

Meet at the Heart of Anerley Monument in Betts Park,
Anerley Road SE20 8QT

For more details please contact Jeff Hawthorne 07984
193783 ; jeffhawthorne@kentworkplacemission.org, or
Walter Leonard at bettparkse20@gmail.com



Andrew's bus journeys

2. Our visit to John o' Groats

Although I have been to Lands End, at the south-west tip of Britain, on several occasions, at the age of 50 I was still to visit John o' Groats, the northern extremity of the British mainland. So to celebrate my birthday that year we decided to make a trip to the far north. We purchased a five-day North of Scotland Rail Rover which gave us unlimited access to the rail network north of Aberdeen. We travelled to the 'Granite City' by a direct train service from London and spent our first night there. We took rucksacks to save having to manage suitcases.

Next day we moved on to Inverness from where we caught the train to Wick. The service north from Inverness to Wick travels via Thurso which increases the distance to 175 miles. There are numerous stops which serve remote communities making the journey time some 4½ hours. It was shortly after the 'no-smoking' rule had been introduced on trains and to cater for passengers that need 'a quick puff' a couple of the stops were extended to over five minutes specifically to allow passengers to stretch their legs and 'light-up'.

We eventually arrived at Wick and looked for the bus stop outside the station from where, according to the timetable, we could expect to join our bus. There was no bus stop. All our fellow passengers had dispersed and the station appeared devoid of any staff. As we pondered what to do we then noticed at the far end of the station yard a double-deck bus, together with a driver. We wandered across to see if this was our service. "No", the driver replied adding, "I'm just off to the High School shortly on a school-run". I asked where we should wait for the John o Groats's bus and he responded, "Sometimes it comes by the station and sometimes it doesn't! It starts from the school so hop on and I'll take you there". We duly got on board and chatted with the driver until he was ready to leave. In a few minutes we reached the High School

where several other buses and coaches were lined-up waiting for the children. *"Don't get off yet – I'll tell you when your bus in here"*. In a little while he said, *"It's the second bus behind me"*, so we got off and made our way to the John o' Groats service. We'd had a free ride from the station.

The single decker bus quickly filled up with youngsters, and after setting off stopped in the town centre to collect a few shoppers, then flew pass the station without any sign of slowing down and out into the wilds of Caithness on its 17 mile journey. As we journeyed on the bus slowly emptied; sometimes stopping by a track or a gate where passengers set off across open country with no sign of habitation in sight.

Eventually we found ourselves the only remaining passengers, and as we crossed the brow of a low range of hills we could see the Pentland Firth and Orkney bathed in glorious late afternoon sunshine.

The bus pulled up at the small quay at John o' Groats and we made our way into the gift shop nearby to get our souvenirs before it closed for the day. Just like the *Tardis* it appeared larger inside than when seen outside! We were the only customers. Having made our purchases we walked to our accommodation, not the adjacent hotel but a small pub offering accommodation - half a mile inland at half the price!

oooOOOooo

Having spent the night at the northern tip of the British mainland we now had to make our return to Inverness. We had travelled out via Wick, one of the two termini of the Far North of Scotland line but we were returning from Thurso the other terminus. At breakfast I asked the landlady whether the Thurso bus left from the quay. *"Sometimes it does, and sometimes it doesn't"* came the reply, *"It depends on the weather"*. As the morning was fine and clear we

took the chance and made our way back to the quay for a 9.30am departure.

We were the only passengers waiting. At just about half past nine a double deck bus appeared. A sole female passenger got off who later told us that she was from Essex and like us had always wanted to visit John o' Groats.

I asked the driver if he was returning to Thurso. "Yes", he answered, *"but not in this bus. This is a school run and I'm now off to get the single decker – won't be long!"* With that he drove off leaving the two of us standing there wondering when we would next see him. We had not noticed a depot anywhere about but some ten minutes later he duly returned in a smaller vehicle.

It is about 15 miles to Thurso – not far but every so often the driver would turn off the main road to reach a farm or a cluster of cottages. There he would perform a three point turn, wait a minute or two to see if anyone wanted to get on board and then return to the main road to resume the journey which of course extended the travelling time significantly. For a much of the way we were the only passengers

Although I am describing events of over 25 years ago, ticket machines had been in regular use on buses elsewhere for years. Here, however, the driver had a biscuit tin to hold his change and a supply of individual paper tickets to give to passengers!

All in all a memorable experience.



A Policeman's Lot - What's the point?



It seems to me that the task of 'point duty' is a skill no longer practiced by today's police officers.

I guess as a young Constable one either loved or loathed it – not much fun in the rain when one invariably got soaked as well as risking life and limb trying to stop cars on a wet road! Other than that, I always felt it was an 'art form' if done well and I suppose if I am honest, it gave one a feeling of power and authority over the commuting drivers.

We had two traffic points, one in Denmark Hill just up the hill from Kings College Hospital where motorists coming down the hill tried hard to look the other way rather than obey the pointed and raised hand of the officer directing the traffic. Amazing how much of interest there was on the left hand side of the road!

I recall on one occasion a driver studiously ignored my signal to stop and in exasperation I was tempted to bang on the car door as he sailed under my arm – this resulted in a dent appearing in the door – Knowing I was in trouble, I left the traffic to sort itself out and walked down the hill to where the offending car had stopped. The driver – irate rather than chastened - got out of his car and viewed the dent before slamming the door to remonstrate with me.

Well luck or the Almighty must have been on my side as when he slammed the door – lo and behold! The dent popped out! As he fumed about the dent I was smugly able to say 'what dent?' and go on to chastise him for 'failing to stop for a

constable'. I thought it best not to report him!

The other favourite and much sought after point was in Peckham Road at the junction with Southampton way - further to walk from the station - but it did have one perk. The junction was opposite a Kennedy's pie shop and bakery. Provided that the points-man assisted Kennedy's vans into the rush hour traffic, when one returned to the nearby police box the small window would open and a brown bag of hot sausage rolls would be delivered. Very welcome on a cold winter's day but it was always wise - if you wanted to get posted to that point in future - not to forget the Section Sergeant and make sure he got his share of the pies!

I remember submitting a report suggesting that both these points be fitted with traffic lights – the report was rejected on the grounds of cost, but both junctions now have traffic lights. Cheaper but less romantic! Clearly I was ahead of my time.

Dave

Weekly Thursday Morning zoom Bible Study Finding 'The Way' together

Thursday mornings 10.00am to 11.00am facilitated by Margaret Boreham
The zoom opens at 9.45am with the study beginning at 10am. Conversations are based on a Bible passage and there will be questions to make us think and rethink. There is an opportunity and time to share thoughts and questions. Closing remarks are at 11am for those who want just an hour, but stay open after 11am for anyone keen to chat or continue the conversations sparked by the Bible Study.

Margaret on mboreham5@gmail.com, 07483 86 86 12 Recurring zoom link:<https://zoom.us/j/98461065032?>



Penge Community Pre-School

Leader: Chloe Edgington

Anerley Methodist Church

Deputy Leader: Liane Durka

Oakfield Road

SENCO: Dawn McConochie

Anerley SE20 8QA

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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

- Mon 2nd Christian Action Group 8pm in the Side Hall.
Speaker: Rev. William Davis
- Wed 4th Wednesday Club 8pm: Dinosaur Bingo
- Wed 4th Circuit Zoom Advent Bible Study 7.30pm (see magazine for details)
- Sat 7th "Light in the Darkness" service at Betts Park, Anerley Road, 5pm—5.45pm (See magazine for further details)
- Sun 8th Gift Service 11am All Age Worship. Preacher: Lesley Murray
- Wed 11th Wednesday Club 8pm: Christmas Readings
- Wed 11th Circuit Zoom Advent Bible Study 7.30pm
- Sun 15th Joint Carol Service with Upper Norwood Methodist Church at Anerley, 6.00pm led by Rev. William Davis
- Sun 15th Circuit Christmas Youth Event at Hither Green Methodist Church 5pm-7.00pm (see magazine for further details)
- Wed 18th Wednesday Club 8pm: Chase the Ace
- Wed 18th Circuit Zoom Advent Bible Study 7.30pm
- Tue 24th Christmas Eve Communion 9.15pm
- Wed 25th Christmas Day All Age Worship 9.15 am

JANUARY

- Wed 1st Wednesday Club Social.
- Wed 8th Wednesday Club 8pm: Quiz of the Year
- Sun 12th ALL MAGAZINE ARTICLES TO MARIAN **TODAY**

- Wed 15th Wednesday Club 8pm: Scrabble
- Sun 19th Covenant Service 11am. Preacher : Rev. William Davis
- Mon 20th Christian Action Group 8pm in the Side Hall: Business Meeting
- Wed 22nd Wednesday Club 8pm: WHOT
- Sun 26th All Age Worship 11 am Local Arrangement
- Wed 29th Wednesday Club 8pm: Workout No.7

FEBRUARY

- Wed 5th Wednesday Club 8pm : Darts
- Mon 10th Christian Action Group 8pm. Speaker: Peter Boreham—History of Bromley Salvation Army Corps.
- Tue 11th Church Council 7.30pm
- Wed 12th Wednesday Club 8pm. Craft Evening

Morning Services are held every Sunday at 11am. . Holy Communion will be celebrated on the 15th December (am), and on Christmas Eve at 9.15pm All Age Worship will take place on Sunday 8th (Gift Service). In addition, Christmas Day will be All Age Worship (9.15am). In January Holy Communion will be celebrated on 19th (Covenant Service), and All Age Worship on 26th January.

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.

Circuit Bible Study Thursday mornings 10am—11am via Zoom. See magazine for further details