

## Blackheath and Crystal Palace Circuit Quarterly Newsletter

Issue 2

June 2013

### Superintendent Minister's Letter

Dear Friends, this quarter's church focus is upon our friends at Burnt Ash, and the many activities which take place there - I hope you enjoy reading of their past, present and hopes for the future.

If you could only take one symbol of your own church's life what would it be? On an ecumenical course I attended, this is what the participants were asked to do for a future session. When the day arrived, a church sign, offering plate, and even a black sack were presented - I can't remember the reason for the sack!

But what would you bring? As I got ready to leave to attend the session, it was only then that I remembered what we had been asked to do, and as time was limited I glanced around the study and saw a Methodist membership card.

If you have one, you might like to look at it and be reminded of where we come from as a Christian movement in which belonging was important, and - at times - dangerous. Tickets enabled the holder to enter particular meetings, and were also an indicator that the holder was a regular and faithful attender.

In the present, the membership card reminds us of the importance of lay and ordained, for it is signed by the minister, and by the pastoral visitor or class leader. The commitments for members today are outlined in the words of 'our calling', and the Biblical verse reminds us of the abundant life that is offered through God's grace in Christ. The membership card is a strong symbol of our historic inheritance, our present discipleship, and our continuing commitment.

What would you take with you to symbolize the life of your church? Think about it, it would be good to hear some suggestions.

God bless, Stephen

**Anerley Burnt Ash Eltham Park Forest Hill Hither Green  
Lewisham Sunfields Upper Norwood Wesley Hall**

### Opportunities for Coffee and Fellowship within the Circuit:

#### Burnt Ash:

Wednesday mornings 10am-12 noon

#### Eltham Park:

3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month 10.30-12 noon

#### Sunfields:

Saturday mornings 10am-12 noon



### Circuit Forthcoming Events

Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> July	Boys' Brigade Sale	Eltham Park
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> July	Local Preachers' and Worship Leaders' Meeting 8.00pm	Burnt Ash
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> Sept.	Circuit Meeting 7.45pm	Forest Hill

Saturday 31 August 2013

### Manse Open Afternoon

2.30pm - 5.30pm

58 Mottingham Lane, Lee, SE12 9AW

### News from around the Circuit

Pam Clews is on sabbatical until the end of July

### Sydenham Arts Festival

The Brockley Potters will be exhibiting at Forest Hill Church on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June from 10am to 5pm each day. Brockley Potters is a diverse group of more than 20 artists exhibiting both functional and sculptural pieces.

Deadline for information for next newsletter:

**15<sup>th</sup> September 2013**

Please email details to: [office.bcpc@btinternet.com](mailto:office.bcpc@btinternet.com)

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## Focus on... Burnt Ash

In 1882 a group of Methodist enthusiasts who met for worship in a cottage in the Grove Park area, decided to build a chapel. In 1883 the Chapel, built on Burnt Ash Hill in the heart of the countryside, was officially opened. Worshippers came from houses dotted here and there, walking through fields and woods to their Chapel, Burnt Ash Methodist Church. Over the years, generations of Methodist people have “done their bit” to maintain a hub of worship and Christian activity here.

The new church was built in 1928 with the original church being used as a hall for the Sunday School, Youth Club, Guide Company (formed in 1925) and Brownie Guides (formed in 1928). In 1932 the 126<sup>th</sup> London Company of the Boys’ Brigade was founded.

The stained glass window in the church was given in memory of founder members, Mr. and Mrs. E.M. Cottell, and features Jesus with hands outstretched to a Boys’ Brigade boy and a Girl Guide .

The faithful early pioneers set the pattern at Burnt Ash for community involvement, drama and youth activities. They persevered despite World War II damage and some members being called up for military service. Many of the old Youth Club members went on to be leaders in the church and led a vigorous church under the pastoral care of various ministers.

Nowadays, the church is set in the heart of a busy suburban commuter belt. The new hall was built on the waste land beside the church and opened in 1965. This led to new scope for activities and lettings. A Playgroup was soon started by the Minister’s wife.

The hall is well equipped for the drama group, College Park Players, to perform and for the concerts we enjoy. The upper room now accommodates the new circuit office, for use by the circuit administrator.

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Our membership and community is now multi-cultural, giving a new dimension to our church. We are in a period of transition where new people come and go, but the worship is still vibrant; our heart and foundation is solid; fund raising events including our Spring Fayre and Christmas Market feature highly in our calendar as opportunities for social and community contact.

The Church has a strong tradition in music, and has benefitted from the organ playing, keyboard, guitars and flute in worship bands of various descriptions. At present we have a children’s percussion band that features at family and parade services.

The church is open every Wednesday morning for anyone to call in for conversation, prayer and refreshment.

**A FRIENDLY WELCOME AWAITS ALL WHO COME!**

### **Easter Offering**

The amount so far collected in the Circuit is an amazing **£5,772.98**

### **Methodist Annual Conference**

#### **Methodist Conference: 4-11 July 2013, London**

This year's Methodist Conference will be held at Methodist Central Hall in Westminster, London from 4-11 July.

The Conference is a gathering of 306 representatives drawn from each Methodist district, along with some who have been elected by the Conference, together with some ex officio members, and international, ecumenical and youth representatives. It is the governing body of the Methodist Church and meets annually to discuss matters affecting the life of the Church, the nation and the world.

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