

### 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

#### Forest Hill:

Tuesday Fellowship 2pm–3.30pm

#### Sunfields:

Saturday mornings 10am–12 noon



The **Methodist Church** 

## Blackheath and Crystal Palace Circuit Quarterly Newsletter

Issue 3

September 2013

### Superintendent Minister's Letter

Dear Friends, it is just over a year since our circuit was formed, and I believe that we have seen some clear advantages from being part of a larger grouping than we were before. One of the most notable of these has been the way in which our increased number of Local Preachers has brought variety in worship to our churches. Many people have commented upon how good it has been to see a new face in their pulpit. So this gives me an opportunity to thank our preachers for all that they do in the Circuit.

Although preachers and others may need to travel a bit further, which can often involve rather more in time than in miles, we actually cover a very small area when compared to some of the considerably larger circuits which are being created around the country.

I do wonder whether the size of these new large circuits really helps to nurture relationships between people, and I believe that we belong to what is a relational Church in Methodism. We see this in our structures where each congregation is part of a Circuit of churches, with Circuits being part of the District, and all are gathered together into the Methodist Connexion. These things help us not to become too parochial and only to think about our own church's needs and future.

Over the past year there have been opportunities - such as at the Garden Party last June - to meet together. In the coming months, there will be a couple of Sunday services to which all are encouraged to come. If we take these opportunities, gradually we recognize more people, learn more names, and increase that sense of relationship or belonging with one another. So please look out for those times when we can meet together, not only as nine individual churches, but also as a Circuit of churches in relationship with one another, as we worship our relational God who brought us into being.  
God bless, Stephen

### Church Events around the Circuit

#### Burnt Ash

Sat. 19<sup>th</sup> Oct. 7.15 for 7.30pm prompt

#### College Park Players Quiz and Supper Evening

Details and booking: [rynld@aol.com](mailto:rynld@aol.com)

Fri. 25<sup>th</sup> Oct. 7.30pm & Sat. 26<sup>th</sup> Oct. 3pm

#### Theatre Productions Present "Broadway Blockbusters"

Tickets £7; details [rynld@aol.com](mailto:rynld@aol.com)

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November: **Church Christmas Market**

Thur. 5<sup>th</sup>, Fri 6<sup>th</sup> 7.45pm; Sat. 7<sup>th</sup> December 2.30pm

#### College Park Players Present "Out of Focus"

Details and booking: [rynld@aol.com](mailto:rynld@aol.com)

#### Forest Hill

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> Nov. 11am-2.30pm: **Christmas Fair**

Details: [admin@foresthillmethodistchurch.org](mailto:admin@foresthillmethodistchurch.org)

#### Wesley Hall

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December 11.00-15.00

#### Christmas Bazaar

Details [map2610@aol.com](mailto:map2610@aol.com)

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

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## Focus on... Eltham Park

Our Church, as its name would imply, is near a park, but not just one park; the area is surrounded by parks and ancient woodland (the hunting ground of kings). Now, if you hear horses clattering by it will be the King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery on exercise round the streets of Eltham.

Look round our church when bright sunlight sparkles through our Tudor-style windows falling on a large wooden cross and a Memorial Book containing the names of our forebears – the building blocks of our church community. In the entrance hall stands the foundation stone of Eltham's original Methodist Chapel in Elizabeth Terrace built in 1838. Methodism was brought to Eltham by Sergeant William Rudd of the Royal Artillery, Woolwich. History records that, "He was a man of religious zeal who brought God's work to people wherever he was stationed."

People arrive and a band starts practising reviving memories of our Boys Brigade band waking up sleepy residents as they played their way down Earlshall Road before a Parade Service. In the next room there are children's voices and you hear echoes of the past – quiet times in Church and Sunday School, fun times with youth clubs, church rambles, outings, Christmas and acting out the Nativity in Church - once, it was filmed on a farm!

Now, we are a small church with a congregation of about sixty people. Most of us are retired, but we are striving to make church attractive and accessible to the many young families who live in the surrounding area. Eltham is a good place to live with its many open spaces. Community activities abound centred around the park cafes and the facilities of the local churches. This has been a benefit to us and our buildings buzz with activity - choirs, orchestras, dancing classes, Flower Club, Taekwondo, classes for maths and English, etc giving us a useful income. We have a good relationship with our main user, the

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Miracle Centre Assemblies of God, and their minister occasionally takes our morning service before leading his own service in the afternoon.

We run a Toddler Church on Wednesday mornings during term time and this has been very successful. In the autumn, we hope to start monthly Messy Church sessions after school so that we can keep a link with the "toddlers" who have started school, and a weekday evening service once a month in the hope that having church at a different time might attract younger people.

For ourselves, we enjoy worship, including the café services which Stephen has introduced, singing with our small choir, coffee mornings, running Lunch Club for older members and friends, and our Second Tuesday Ladies' Group. We are always happy to welcome friends from the Circuit who would like to visit us.

### Circuit Forthcoming Events

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> Sept. Circuit Meeting 7.45pm Forest Hill  
Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October LWP meeting (with communion) Hither Green

### Harvest Celebrations around the Circuit:

#### Burnt Ash

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> Oct. : Autumn Show & Harvest Tea from 3pm  
Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> Oct. Harvest Festival 'Celebration of God's Gifts and Talents'

#### Forest Hill

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> Oct. 11am: Harvest Festival Service and Talents Festival  
Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> Oct. 4pm: 'Singing the Seasons': "Celebration of Harvest"

Deadline for information for next newsletter:

**1<sup>ST</sup> December 2013**

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

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