

Opportunities for Coffee and Fellowship within the Circuit:

Burnt Ash:

Wednesday mornings 10am–12 noon

Eltham Park:

3rd 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 5

March 2014

Superintendent Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

On a number of occasions within the Gospels, we read that Jesus was in need of spiritual rest and refreshment, but that his time of prayer is interrupted because of the demands of the crowds. He responds to their needs, but then returns to the quiet of the mountain. A picture is painted of a busy and active Jesus answering the call of others, but also ensuring that, in due course, he would have time for his own spiritual needs.

In my own life I often feel that the balance between activity and reflective quiet is not quite right, with activity often triumphing! For other people, of course, the balance falls the other way, and they feel that there is too much quiet in their lives, and they yearn for greater social contact.

During Lent there can be a sense in which busyness and spiritual reflection are in competition. Often it is a time when not only are we trying to do things differently for Lent, but also dealing with much in the way of Church business. This year as a ministerial team we are actively trying to avoid having evening business meetings wherever possible, and this may help as we prepare our hearts, souls and minds, for Holy Week and Easter.

Jesus spent time in the desert and amongst the crowds; on the mountain-top and in the city; engaged with others and responsive to his Father's voice as he prayed alone. The quest for spiritual balance is something that we need to consider for ourselves, and also to encourage in one another.

And so, how does your life feel for you? May this Lent be a time of active, and reflective discipleship for you and for me, and may we know God's blessing as together we follow the journey of Jesus to Jerusalem.

Stephen

Circuit Forthcoming Events

Wed. 5 th March	Ash Wed. Services 7.30pm	Lewisham & 8pm	Forest Hill
Wed. 12 th March	Encounter Group	8pm	Eltham Park
Sat. 12 th April	District Synod		Central Hall
Tues. 29 th April	LW & WL Meeting	7.45pm	Burnt Ash
Sun. 11 th May	Easter Offering Service	4pm	Sunfields
Thurs. 12 th June	Circuit Meeting	7.45pm	Lewisham
Sat. 22 nd June	Summer Garden Party	11am–3pm	Forest Hill

Maundy Thursday Services Thursday 17th April

Anerley – Lovefeast	7pm
Eltham Park (HC)	8pm
Forest Hill (HC)	8pm
Sunfields at URC (HC)	8pm

Good Friday Services Friday 18th April

Anerley (HC)	9.15am
Burnt Ash	9.30am
Eltham Park	10.30am
Forest Hill	10.30am
Hither Green	10.00am
Lewisham (HC)	9.00am
Wesley Hall	10.30am



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

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FOCUS ON... HITHER GREEN **(Formally Torricon Road Methodist Church)**

Services were started in July 1898 in a tent on the site where the flats now stand next to the existing Church. In August of that year services moved to a room in Brownhill Road while building was taking place.

In 1901 the new building was known as the Bible Christian (Methodist) Church, Torricon Road Chapel.

A further new Church was opened in 1913 and was dedicated as The Benson Memorial Church. After the second World War, when the Methodist Church in Hither Green Lane was destroyed by enemy action, the members from there came up to join us. Our Church was also damaged by enemy action in 1944 and services had to be held in the old hall until 1948, when the Church was re-opened after War Damage Repairs. Over the following years the Church then became known as the Hither Green Church instead of the Torricon Road Church.

The Church held a very strong place in the community, with a four-department Sunday School, Bible Class and Young People's Fellowship, Youth Club, Uniformed Organisations with two Cub Packs, two Brownie Packs as well as the Senior Sections. It also ran a Drama Group, Men's Social Group, Sewing Meeting, Choir, Guild and Fellowship.

In 1993 the decision, mainly due to the cost of upkeep and heating, was made to sell the site that the Church itself stood on. The site was purchased by the Hyde Housing Association and the Church was demolished in 1995. The adjacent Church Hall was modified to form a combined Church and Hall as it now stands, and was opened in 1996. We now have the Church downstairs, with the Vestry behind it. The upstairs consists of a nice light hall with a small carpeted room behind it, which we call "The Benson Room" in memory of the old Church premises. There is also a small kitchen, with a serving hatch that opens onto the hall.

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

Our own activities include "The Benson Club", which meets twice a month for a social afternoon with members of the congregation. The Brownies and Guides also use these facilities as "Sponsored Units". We have also recently become involved with "Feed the Hungry" and made our first contributions just before Christmas. We hope to continue this support perhaps once a quarter.

The hall is let out three times a week to The Karate Club and we have occasional lettings for parties etc on various days throughout the week.

Our Junior Church has expanded over the past year and some of the children also sing with the Choir, which was formed about 18 months ago to enhance the singing in the Services.

Our congregation is now multi-cultural, with an approximate attendance of 45 - 50 each week. We have a fair proportion of young families that blend in very well with the older generation to form a very friendly and caring community.

CIRCUIT WEEKEND "THIS IS OUR STORY"

Friday 4th – Sunday 6th July 2014

HIGH LEIGH CONFERENCE CENTRE

Cost: £138 per person for an en-suite room
Further details available from Stephen, Linda
or any member of the Leadership Team.

Circuit Website: bhcpmethodist.org.uk

Deadline for information for next newsletter: **1ST June 2014**
Please email details to: office.bcpc@btinternet.com

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