



The Methodist Church

Blackheath and Crystal Palace Circuit

Quarterly Newsletter

Issue 22

June 2018

Superintendent Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

I remember that during my very first Welcome Service as a new minister in September 1999, Rev Tom Stuckey, the then Chair of the Southampton District, said that ministers were never to feel too settled! He was emphasising the nature of itinerant ministry within the Methodist Church where movement within the Connexion is part of our present as well as our past.

From that initial appointment nineteen years ago, I have been blessed that Angela has always supported that sense of never quite being settled. I suppose that on reflection it suits our nature, and certainly my belief that ministry needs to be served in a particular place for a while, and then with a change in ministry, new ideas and vision can come in. As many of you will know, we will soon be making the next move when we relocate to Oxford, where I have been offered a three-year appointment prior to retirement. At that point, I suppose, we will need to settle-down!

I am delighted that this final newsletter for me, is also probably the fullest that we have had. It comes with news of individual endeavours and initiatives which seek to help others, news about circuit-life, and has a real sense of mission within it. I hope that you will enjoy, and be inspired, by what is here.

When the time comes, Angela and I will leave with many fond memories of our Circuit. It was great to be involved in the coming together of the nine churches six years ago, and I have enjoyed being able to play some part in each of them and to meet so many of you.

Our prayers and thoughts will be with you as you welcome Richard as Superintendent, and we trust that the sense of local and international mission which is part of this newsletter, will continue to be evident in the years to come.

God bless,
Stephen

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Displaced Syrian and Iraqi families ...so far AN APPEAL

The first displaced Syrian family came to London in February 2017, followed by two others in March, 2017. SHP, the charity selected by Lewisham meets, greets and settles the family in their new home. Each family has its own case worker who speaks Arabic and helps the family in many aspects of their new life as soon as possible, e.g. registering the children with schools, using the bus, knowing their neighbourhood.

Many volunteers under the umbrella of Lewisham Citizens, provide a range of very important support to meet the needs of each of the new families. This includes educational materials, selected, bought and paid for by Churches Together Sydenham and Forest Hill. Additional items included TV, crockery, cutlery, linen, small coffee tables, warm clothing and shoes and many other items identified by the families. There are no luxury items.

We had our very first welcome party in April, 2017 at the Friends Meeting House in Sunderland Road. It was very important for all the families to meet and greet each other in a safe place. It was wonderful indeed to see the joy and enthusiasm on the faces of the families and volunteers and officials.

The last of the fourteen families arrived in December, On 27th January we had another party for the entire group of displaced families at St. Saviour's Church. We had over 120 family members who had a great, enjoyable, and memorable time. The volunteers and the families contributed so much to make the party a truly integrated experience. It was heart-warming.

In the meantime, many of the families and children meet at the Point in Lewisham High street every Monday from 4.30–7.00 and beyond. The team from SHP deal with issues facing the families and the children are engaged purposefully in the other half of the large room. I take care of the children.

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On the 24th March, SHP organised an evaluation day for the families and the local authority officials. We celebrated all the good aspects of arriving and going to schools, learning English and experience Lewisham culture.

We have identified the areas that require rigorous effort and urgent attention to ensure that the families begin to FEEL successful. They need to feel that they are moving on.

Urgent needs:

- Work experience
- Access to work
- It equipment/laptop
- Befrienders
- Arabic/English speakers
- Teachers to assist Secondary age and college students.

Churches Together continue to support different aspects of children and young adult education but there is very great need for language support for the adults, especially the men who are desperate to work and/or set up small businesses.

Can you help? Do you know of anyone who can support?

Call Saira on 07505629916 or Email s.bohancroft@ntlworld.com

Saira Bohan-Croft, CTSFH.

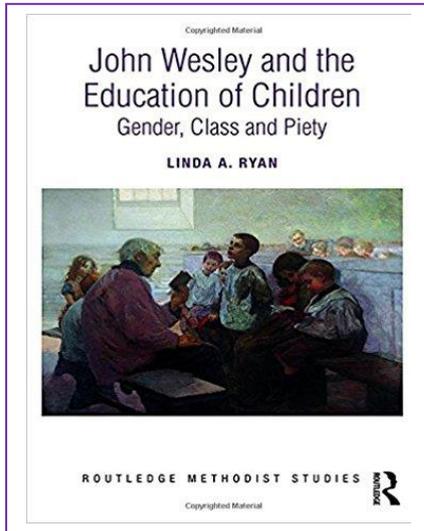
Circuit Upcoming Events

Tue. 12 th June	Circuit Meeting	7.45pm	Forest Hill
Sat. 23 rd June	Garden Party	10.30am-2.30pm	Forest Hill
Sun. 24 th June	Inter-faith Walk		Lewisham
Wed. 18 th July	LP & WL Meeting	7.45pm	Hither Green
Fri. 20 th –Sun 22 nd July	London District Conference		High Leigh

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John Wesley and the Education of Children: Gender, Class & Piety

By Linda A. Ryan



Available from Routledge at £105.00,
or available as ebook/kindle
OR direct from the author [Blackheath
& Crystal Palace Circuit Administrator]
contact Linda rynld@aol.com

Dr Linda Ryan's ground-break book on John Wesley and the Education of Children will be of significant interest to the serious student of Methodist history and all those interested in the wider cultural aspects of childhood and the education of children in 18th century Britain. Dr Ryan's book is pioneering in the sense that it is the first book on the subject that skilfully draws together many different strands to contextualise John Wesley's evolving and often ambiguous plan to bring moral, spiritual and practical education to children - mainly from the lowest strata of 18th century society.

The narrative weaves a tapestry that incorporates such themes as gender, piety, class distinction, family, education, and religiosity. Most interestingly, the book places John Wesley's educational programme in its broad social and cultural context. Dr Ryan has used an impressive list of both primary and secondary sources to illustrate and contextualise her very readable and clear narrative.

The writings of contemporary philosophers, social commentators, economists and educators provide a secular context and balance to what was a predominantly theologically-driven issue. There is much in this

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book that sheds light on the background, theology and thoughts of John Wesley.

Wesley's reasons for wanting to educate the poor were at times, both controversial and ambiguous. His aspirations had to be moderated as the 18th century progressed, particularly in the context of the role the lower classes played in the French Revolution.

One of the dominant strands in Dr Ryan's 'tapestry' concerns 18th century attitudes towards the education of girls and young women, and the limitations that these views sometimes placed on John Wesley's plan for the education of the poor and indeed, on the curriculum that was deemed appropriate for the female sex.

There is a lot of new material in the book about the schools that John Wesley established as part of his strategy. A critical analysis of these institutions forms an integral part of the book. Dr Ryan is to be congratulated for producing such an informative and well-researched book that sheds much new light on the study of 18th century education and the significant contribution that the Methodists made to bring literacy, morality and spiritual education to both the poor and the emerging lower middle classes. This book is highly recommended.

Alexander LeCost

Circuit JMA Shield

With grateful thanks to all those who collect for JMA (Junior Mission for All). Congratulations to members at Anerley, who had the highest percentage increase in donations, and were awarded the JMA Shield at the Easter Offering Service on Sunday 29 April 2018:

Church	2015/16	2016/17	Increase	% increase
Anerley	404.17	736.67	332.50	82.27%
Burnt Ash	152.00	175.20	23.20	15.26%
Eltham Park	802.27	920.98	118.71	14.80%
Forest Hill	113.04	108.40	-4.64	-4.10%
	1,471.48	1,941.25	469.77	31.93%

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Taiwo's on the Road to Kilimanjaro

In July, I am climbing Mount Kilimanjaro because I want to demonstrate that you're never too old and it's never too late to try something outside your comfort zone.

Most of you will know me as the local preacher who comes to your church every so often but by day I'm a Lifestyle Coach, Writer and founder of *The New Fifty* which is aimed at supporting people who are approaching or at midlife to help them make choices about the way they create the next chapter of their lives. I do this through coaching and workshops. I use my online presence; a blog, You Tube, Facebook and other social media as a way of influencing people in midlife to do things that will bring them out of their comfort zone. Last year I created a project where I challenged myself to do something I had never done before each day for 50 days which I wrote up each day in a blog series called Every Day for 50 Days.

My theme for *The New Fifty* this year is the Midlife Hero's Journey, based on the Joseph Campbell's themes of departure, initiation and return, where a person (the Hero) is called to face some sort of challenge that, if he succeeds will transform his life forever. We see this theme in stories in the bible like Moses and his quest to free the enslaved Israelites, or Saul, a man who made a living persecuting Jews and who was called, by Jesus, to become Paul, his best self, and create what would become the church.

I see this trip to Kilimanjaro as a calling, but it is also part of a bigger calling. A calling to be a leader, to practice what I preach and lead by example. To show those in midlife that it is never too late to try something new and it's never too late to step out of your comfort zone. To show that while the destination is amazing, the journey is equally, if not more powerful.

There are a few parts to this journey that will challenge me:

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1. There is the physical training - I am a walker but I have to get myself fit enough to walk for up to 7 hours each day
2. There is the fundraising. I have started a fundraising campaign for the cost of the climb which is about £8000 (including airfare). I am also applying for company sponsorship for things like clothing and equipment
3. There is the actual climb. 5 days to go up and 7 days to come down. The altitude is the biggest danger and so that is part of my training to be able to take it.
4. There is the giving back. When we first arrive in Tanzania, we will spend 2 days volunteering at the Mwereni School for the Blind, an orphanage for sight impaired children and children with the Albino condition, before starting the hike up the mountain. This orphanage is a safe haven for the Albino children because in some parts of Africa they are seen as magical and killed to be used as charms. The orphanage takes in these children, so they are not harmed. Those of us taking the trip are looking to raise funds to support K2 Adventures (who sponsor the orphanage) to build a second orphanage in Arusha that will house 35 street children. So, I'm looking to raise a total of £10,000 in order to make a substantial contribution to the orphanage.

I would appreciate any contribution you would like to make to this challenge, especially towards the orphanage in Arusha. When we get to Tanzania I believe we will have a chance to go to the site so I can take some photos to include in a future newsletter. We will also get updates on the progress of the building which I will share with you. If you would like to contribute you can either go to:

<https://www.gofundme.com/taiwoskilimanjaro>

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or you can give your contribution to the church office who will forward it to me at Forest Hill. But most of all I would really appreciate your prayers both as I make my way along this journey to Kilimanjaro and again, as I ascend. I am documenting this journey in a blog series entitled The (Midlife) Hero's Journey. Which you can read by going to this link <https://www.thenew5ifty.com/the-midlife-heros-journey/>

Thank You So Much For Your Help, Support and Prayers

Taiwo



**FOREST HILL METHODIST CHURCH
TUESDAY FELLOWSHIP**

Tuesday Fellowship, an ecumenical fellowship group, meet from 2:00 on Tuesdays for tea or coffee and sometimes biscuits, before a hymn and prayers at 2:30, followed by our speaker or activity. We would love to welcome you, as we get to know each other better, make new friends and develop our skills:

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 12 June | Rev Abe Konadu-Yiadom |
| 19 June | Reminiscence/discussion |
| 26 June | Canon Michael Kingston 'The history and traditions of St Bartholomew's Church, Sydenham' |
| 3 July | Bring-and-Share: hymns, poems, readings, songs |
| 17 July | Chris Wise: Story |
| 24 July | Rev Dee Yeadon |

Tuesday Fellowship secretary: Sue Rhodes
suerhodespersonal@gmail.com

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Living hope is a project which aims to provide good quality education for disadvantaged children in Baddomalhi, Pakistan

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your continued support of Living Hope. The school is extremely grateful for your continued support and prayers. All the children are progressing well and the school is growing from strength to strength.

At the beginning of last year, I visited the school to see how everything is progressing; the children definitely looked a lot bigger than last time I saw them! It was a great joy to see them growing in their learning and confidence. Most of them are now using computers for educational games, such as English language and Maths. One of the teachers commented that the computer games have made learning fun for the children.

During one of the weekends, I took all of our teachers to visit libraries and a museum in Lahore. It was a great experience for them. Most of them had never been to a museum, and they took lots of photos to show the students.

Your prayers and support are making a huge difference to our students' and teachers' lives. In the next few years, we will have helped many families to educate their children. With our school, we are breeding hope and confidence in young minds which is going to make a huge impact for many years to come!

Please continue to pray for the work of Living Hope and its community.

Thank you,
God bless,
Imran

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Circuit Coffee Morning in aid of Methodist Mission in Britain Funds

Thank you very much to those of you who braved the cold wind and supported the Coffee Morning and sale of books in aid of Methodist Mission in Britain on 24th February at Burnt Ash. A special thank you to Martin Cleave for entertaining us on the piano. Together with donations, a grand total of **£342** was raised. A great result, thank you all for your generosity.

Mary Sparkes

Mission in Britain rep.

CIRCUIT EASTER OFFERING SERVICE

The Easter Offering Service, held at Upper Norwood Church on Sunday 29 April, was inspirational. Thank you to Rev. Dee Yeadon, who encouraged the congregation to make symbols of peace with pipe cleaners, and spoke on the theme **SEEK PEACE AND PURSUE IT**. The service included stories from Mission Partners funded by our Easter Offering through the Methodist World Mission Fund:

- * Sri Lanka – the support offered by the National Christian Council of Sri Lanka to victims of the conflict Sinhala and Tamil alike seeking a peaceful and reconciled society
- * Israel/Palestine and the Tent of Nations – an international centre for peace
- * Japan – a third generation atomic bomb survivor and her High School peace groups with the slogan ‘Education not force! Pencils, not missiles’.

Many thanks are offered to everyone who participated in readings and prayers, to Nigel Harris for music and Maxine Yawson for very efficient projection of the whole service. Thank you to everyone at Upper Norwood for the refreshments that followed the service.

The Easter Offering received/expected totals a magnificent **£4,327.51** on behalf of Methodist World Mission Fund. Thank you to everyone who contributed so generously

Ira Fernando

CIRCUIT MISSIONS & MWiB SECRETARY

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- **GUEST ARTISTS**

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WESTMOUNT ROAD, ELTHAM SE9 1XX**

ADMISSION FREE

Refreshments available

Eltham Park Brotherhood & PSA Society

President: Rev. Stephen Maunder

As part of the National Brotherhood and Sisterhood Movement, our Society aims, through its orchestra to promote a spirit of Christian citizenship. In addition to some charitable work, the Society holds musical Pleasant Sunday Afternoons, or PSA meetings on the last Sunday of each month (except for breaks in August and December).

www.pleasant.org.uk

Circuit Website: bhcpmethodist.org.uk

Deadline for information for next newsletter:

Monday 20th August 2018

Please email details to: office.bcpc@btinternet.com

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BLACKHEATH & CRYSTAL PALACE

CIRCUIT SUMMER FAIR

In aid of the Methodist Women in Britain

London District Project Charities

Mercy Ships & Rafiki Foundation

& 20% of Funds Collected will go to the

World Mission of the Methodist Church

SATURDAY 23RD JUNE 2018

10.30AM TO 2.30PM

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ring the Church Office on 020 8291 6996 or email

admin@foresthillmethodistchurch.org

Entrance: Adults 50p, Children 20p, Under 5's Free

Enjoy an afternoon of fun and fellowship

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