



The Methodist Church

Blackheath and Crystal Palace Circuit

Quarterly Newsletter

Issue 41

June 2022

Superintendent Minister's Letter

Pentecost 2022

The day of Pentecost had come, and they were all together in one place. Suddenly there came from the sky what sounded like a strong driving wind, a noise which filled the whole house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them flames like tongues of fire distributed among them and coming to rest on each one. They were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to talk in other tongues, as the spirit gave them power of utterance.' (Acts 2:1–4)

Dear Friends,

After Jesus rose from the dead, he showed himself to his friends in many places some ordinary and mundane like the upper room where they had met him many times before, others more unusual, such as the road to Emmaus. A few weeks later, having convinced all of his disciples that he had risen, even doubting Thomas, Jesus left this world and ascended to his Father in heaven, as we remember on Ascension Day, May 26th this year.

Before Jesus left his disciples, he told them that he would not be leaving them alone because soon he would send his Holy Spirit to guide and strengthen them. So, as the verses I quoted at the beginning show, when the day of Pentecost arrived, the disciples were taken over by something or someone else very different whom they knew was the Spirit of Jesus, returned to their world to stay for evermore. This Spirit appeared to them in very vivid terms. It appeared firstly, as a wind which blew not just through their house but the whole of their lives forcing them to reconsider all that they were doing. Secondly as tongues of fire giving them energy and courage to do things they could never have done before. Thirdly as tongues of unity which allowed them to work together in harmony in a way they had never done before.

The temptation is to see the gift of the Spirit as something given only to a select few 'Holy people' who have particularly flowery gifts. I would argue that all of us have been given this Spirit, and that in this era as we return to so many activities in the life of our church following the worst days of the Covid pandemic, this Spirit calls all of us to be part of the mission of the church. It is that Spirit led vision that takes Peter and others to proclaim this gospel message far and wide, it is that broader vision that encourages us all to look with confidence to the future of ministry in our circuit.

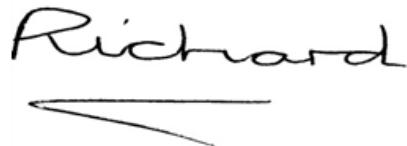
Here is a power that transforms our current life, allowing new life to emerge. Here is a power which enables people who were previously shy and withdrawn to witness and

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testify to the love of God. Here is a power that releases gifts that otherwise would remain unknown or unused. Here is a power that challenges faith that is self-centred or private. Here is the Spirit of Jesus that knows no boundaries such as race, social class, language, gender or sexual orientation. This Spirit encourages us to use our God given gifts with wisdom and enthusiasm and calls us to share this vision of the Kingdom of God with a world so desperately in need of the good news of Jesus Christ.

May the good Lord give us the wisdom to embrace and practice the gift of the Holy Spirit in our lives, this day and for evermore.

Kind regards,


Richard

A final message from Abe: Hospitality and its reward

In 2 Kings 4:8-11, 14-16, a woman recognises Elisha to be a holy man of God and welcomes him into her house. Her hospitality is rewarded when she receives the promise of a child.

The modern traveller has become accustomed to availability of roadside cafes, motorway services. Indeed, we are encouraged to break long journeys, as motorway slogans warn ‘tiredness kills’. In the days of the prophet Elisha, there were no guest houses or fast-food stops. Those who travelled beyond the territory of their own family or tribe had to depend on the hospitality of strangers to survive. In the first reading, Elisha is lucky in his travels: he meets a woman of means who invites him to break his journey and eat at her house. The hospitality must have been good because Elisha makes a habit of stopping there on his travels.

The woman sees that Elisha is a holy man, and she asks her husband’s permission to build an attic onto their house so that the prophet can have his own room when he stays with them. The husband must have agreed because the next we hear about Elisha is that he is resting in the upper room. The prophet wants to repay the hospitality of his hostess and he asks his servant for some ideas. His servant tells him: “Well, she has no son, and her husband is old.” The servant is astute: he knows that the woman is entertaining this holy man because she hopes that she will receive the special blessing of a child. Her hope is fulfilled. The new guest in their house will her child. And soon the attic of the prophet will become the nursery of the new-born.

The woman receives her reward. In the words of Jesus in the Gospel: “Anyone who welcomes a prophet because he is a prophet will have a prophet’s reward; and anyone who welcomes a holy man because he is a holy man will have a holy man’s reward.” The woman’s reward for welcoming a holy man is the best she can have: a family.

In the tradition of tribes who move from place to place to find new grazing lands for their cattle, hospitality becomes a matter of life and death. Their modern equivalent might be the migrant workers who leave home to find jobs in different areas and countries. During a plenary session of the London District Synod in my early days, a

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wise deacon described our itinerant ministry as akin to migrant workers or refugees; hospitality becomes a matter of life and death. Something that resonated very well with me as all these people depend on welcome if they are to thrive.

Before he discovered his vocation as a painter, the Dutch artist Vincent Van Gogh studied for the priesthood. He longed to dedicate himself to helping other people, and after a short spell in England as a lay preacher and teacher he studied theology and then took up training as an evangelist in Brussels. He failed to be recommended and left to do missionary work among a poor mining population – an experience which gave him what he called “a free course at the university of despair”.

He gave away the few possessions he had to share the life of the poor and was dismissed for taking the Gospel too literally. Only when he became penniless and experienced rejection did he discover his true calling as a painter. He decided that his mission would be to bring consolation to people through his art. As he wrote to his younger brother, Theo:

What I want to aim at is this. I want to do drawings which touch people. I want to progress so far that people will say of my work: he feels deeply, he feels tenderly. What am I in most people’s eyes? A nonentity, somebody who has no position in society and never will have. Very well then, I should want my work to show what is in the heart of such a nobody. This is my ambition which, in spite of everything, is founded less on anger than on love.

Van Gogh produced over 700 drawings and 800 oils, only one of which was sold during his lifetime. Often driven to suicide, it was only after his death that his work appreciated. In his paintings, even the dirtiest corner of life has a ray of light. Through his art he has ministered to untold numbers of people throughout the world.

Jesus’ habit of pursuing his mission saw him through times of hurt and terror. In the sacred tradition of Israel, hospitality was regarded as one of the chief responsibilities of a caring people. The stranger, the outsider, the wayfarer, anyone outside home territory – all were regarded as people who needed special care. The reason for this was enshrined in the Law: “If a stranger lives with you in your land, do not molest him/her. You must count him/her as one of your own countrymen/women and love them as yourself – for you were once strangers yourselves in the land of Egypt. I am the Lord your God” (Leviticus 19:33-4).

At the beginning of his life, Jesus is marked as the one who must depend on the hospitality of others. He takes to the road with his own band of itinerant supporters. As they leave their own region of Galilee behind them, they become a travelling people who have to depend on others’ hospitality to receive them and welcome their message. When Jesus is welcomed into towns and villages by people who see him as a holy messenger from God, the people receive a holy man’s reward: the poor hear Good News, the sick are healed, sinners come to know the forgiveness of God.

The people receive their own reward for *the hospitality of a faith that welcomes Jesus*. Their hospitality is not a matter of bed and breakfast and goodbye; it is the act of opening their heart to the visit of God who comes in the person of Jesus. Jesus’ presence rubs off on them: they catch something of his goodness and values; they are changed because of

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his visit. When Jesus and his disciples face closed doors and closed hearts in other towns, all that the people receive is a cloud of dust.

One of the characteristics of the Church is the generosity of the people towards their ministers. Jesus says that responding to all this, has its own reward for the giver, but I wish to add here, for the recipient too.

My experience here has been of bittersweet; bitter because I leave with more questions than ever, about ‘what it is to be a multi denominational church, in London, in the 21st century?’ ? Sweet because I leave with fond memories, kindness and generosity and friendships. Jesus’ sermon on the mount, (Matthew 5:3–11) speaks of a variety of experiences that disciples undergo as a result of their involvement in living the Gospel.

Soon, I too will take to the road just as Jesus did with his own band of itinerant supporters. But as we leave this region of God’s work behind us, Matthew and I will do so, in the knowledge that we too, leave with a band of spiritual supporters and long-term friends, even family!

I cannot name all the band of supporters, from probation to ordination, but want to pay special tribute to Jeannette Warren, Circuit Steward, during very difficult times. But as we thank you, we hope, in turn, you feel that you have received, or will receive, your own reward for *the hospitality of a faith that welcomes Jesus*.

“People won’t lose by their generosity to the cause of the Gospel; for anyone who welcomes you, welcomes me; and those who welcome me, welcome the One who sent me,” Jesus tells his messengers.

And so, to this end, I give thanks for the Church of Jesus Christ here at Blackheath and Crystal Palace, and for our ministry together. I pray that we will all continue to maintain with faithfulness, the Gospel we have received! Amen.

In His Service



The Revd. Abe and Matthew Konadu-Yiadom
2017 – 2002, over and out!

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BLACKHEATH & CRYSTAL PALACE CIRCUIT



The event is open to all young people between the ages of 8 and 23: Under 12's must be accompanied by an adult. It is open to young people from across the Circuit; please reach out and personally invite young people with links to your congregation, even those who you may not have seen in a long while.

3Generate 2022

A team of volunteers have come together to take a group of young people from our circuit to share in fun, faith and fellowship with other young people from across the Methodist Church in Britain.

What: Methodist Children and Youth Assembly

When: 30th September – 2nd October 2022

Where: NEC in Birmingham (coach transport provided)

Who: For ages 8-23

How much? **Free** (Usually £120+)

For more info, and to book, contact Craig Gaffney: craig.gaffney@methodist.org.uk

Deadlines for booking are Friday 8th July

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-work/children-youth-family-ministry/events-including-3generate/3generate/>

For more information on both these events contact Rev. Craig Gaffney: craig.gaffney@methodist.org.uk

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Circuit Evening Services/Gatherings on Zoom

Following the success of the Spring initiative, the Circuit are running further evening Services/Gatherings on Zoom:

When: The second Sunday of the month for the next 2 months:

- 12th June 2022
- 10th July 2022

Please be aware that the Circuit Youth Event is also on 12th June. It is important to put that first if it is a clash in your diary. We expect the CYE to increase in success as our young people get to know each other.

Details of the Zoom Gathering/Service:

- Zoom opens from 6.00pm to allow us to gather and chat and stays open after the Service is finished
- Service starts at 6.30pm and lasts for 40 to 50 minutes
- volunteers to read or take part in prayers or testimony or offer a reflection are always welcome - don't wait to be asked
- the Zoom link is the same as before.

Zoom link (the same for each session):

<https://zoom.us/j/91829724673?pwd=WGpsL0RPbW9LSHZoMzBRd25uM3kwQT09>

Please share the information with people who may not be at Church.
One-to-one help with Zoom available.

We look forward to meeting each other on Zoom.

Margaret Boreham
email:mboreham5@gmail.com,
BCPC Online Team



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Methodist World Mission Fund

The Methodist Way of Life commitment for Learning and Caring includes that '**We will care for ourselves and those around us**'. And as we are part of a global Methodist community this particular commitment allows us to think about caring for those around us, globally.

As Methodists, we believe in learning and caring as part of our discipleship and there are plenty of opportunities for us to support the Church whether that's in prayer, the giving of our time or the giving of our money.

The World Mission Fund (WMF) supports projects and individuals around the world and this work is only made possible by kind donations.

Missions committee

After two years of absence between 2019 and 2021 the circuit missions committee, now chaired by Rev. Craig Gaffney, met again for the first time in November 2021. While the committee recognises the challenging times the circuit has been through in recent years and the ways covid and lockdowns will shape our future, we were excited to begin thinking creatively about how we can share in God's mission in the circuit afresh.

Our most recent piece of work was the Easter offering service, held at Anerley Methodist Church on May 22nd. We were thrilled to see a good attendance, and service involvement, from across the circuit. We welcomed Helen Cornick, London district president for Methodist Women in Britain, to preach and she reminded us of our calling to tell stories of God, tell the stories of those who suffer injustice, and tell our own faith stories to others. The Easter offering appeal total for the World Missions Fund is not yet available, but the committee thanks all who donated, and will announce the amount as soon as possible. The missions committee is hoping to organise another world missions event in October - more details will follow in due course.

Burnt Ash Methodist Church hosted a Circuit 'Missions tea' event on March 26th where there was a fantastic selection of scones and cakes. The £300 that was raised was split between Mission in Britain and World Mission funds. A special thanks to Mary Sparkes and her team of volunteers for arranging the event.

The circuit has recently begun hosting quarterly youth events which seek to connect young people from across the circuit in fellowship with one another. The inaugural event took place in February and almost 20 young people (+13 adults)

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came to share in fun, fellowship, faith and food; sharing their vision for the church, worshipping together, and making pancakes. The next youth event is taking place on June 12th at Hither Green Methodist Church from 17:00-18:30. Additionally, it is hoped that the circuit will support a number of our young people to attend 3Generate (annual Methodist children and youth assembly) in Birmingham from September 30th-October 2nd. While Craig Gaffney has taken a lead on the youth events, and organising the 3Generate trip, he is looking for more volunteers in the circuit to support our ministry with these young people.

The missions committee, among many things, is deeply saddened by the situation in Ukraine and the current pressures that the cost-of-living crisis is putting on many households here in the UK. We are pleased to see that many churches in our circuit have responded to these situations in prayer, giving, and other outreach. We encourage churches to continue thinking about how God's church might be guided by the spirit to respond to these challenges. Please see the London Methodist District website for more details on possible responses and share good practise or initiatives with others in the circuit.

Finally, we offer an invitation for more people to join the committee. Sadly, at present, not every church has been represented on the missions committee. We would like to see more people, with different ideas and passions, from any age or background, join the committee and share in fellowship with us as we seek to discern the mission God is calling us together. Our next meeting takes place on Wednesday 6th July (Eltham Park Methodist Church at 7:30pm), all are welcome.

(For more info contact Bonnie and Margaret:
admin@foresthillmethodistchurch.org)

Circuit Forthcoming Events

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Sun. 12 th June | Circuit Youth Service | 5pm | Hither Green |
| Thurs. 16 th June | Circuit Meeting | 7.30pm | Burnt Ash |
| Sat. 2 nd July | Foundation safeguarding Training | 10am -12.30pm | Forest Hill |
| Thurs. 7 th July | LP & WL meeting | 7.30pm | Wesley Hall |
| Sat. 3 rd Sept. | Welcome service Rev William Davis | 4pm | TBC |
| Thurs. 8 th Sept. | CLT meeting | 7.30pm | Burnt Ash |
| Sat. 8 th Oct. | PV training | 10am-12pm | Lewisham |

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DO YOU LIKE A GOOD TUNE?

THEN WHY NOT COME ALONG TO A CONCERT BY THE

ELTHAM PARK PLEASANT SUNDAY AFTERNOON ORCHESTRA

26th June, and 31st July 2022 at 3.00pm

ELTHAM PARK METHODIST CHURCH

Westmount Road SE9 1XX

♪ **LIGHT CLASSICS SHOW SELECTIONS**
♪ **FAVOURITE HYMNS POPULAR STANDARDS**

ADMISSION FREE

Refreshments available

www.pleasant.org.uk



**INVITING LADIES OF BLACKHEATH & CRYSTAL
PALACE CIRCUIT TO
'WOMEN EMULATING SUSANNA WESLEY
(W.E.S.U.W)'**



Dates: Sat 25th June; Sat 30th July;

Sat 27th August: 11am-1pm

Refreshments will be served

Venue: Upper Norwood or Anerley Methodist Church,

Please contact for details:

Contacts: Nana Ama Brehen Ankah 07957111810 (Wesley Hall);

Or Agnes Frempong-Manso 07906118387 (Upper Norwood)

Circuit website: bhcpmethodist.org.uk

Deadline for information for next newsletter: **20th August 2022**

Articles, posters for forthcoming events etc always welcome

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

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BLACKHEATH & CRYSTAL PALACE CIRCUIT



PASTORAL VISITORS TRAINING Run by James Pickin

London Regional Learning & Development Coordinator
The Connexional Team

SATURDAY 8TH OCTOBER 2022
10am – 12noon
Lewisham Methodist Church

Topics to be covered include the importance of communication and listening skills, and confidentiality boundaries.

If you think this would be helpful for you, please make a note in your diary: further details to be circulated in due course.

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

Dear Friends,

I hope you are keeping well. I am writing this letter on a Sunny day in Paisley Scotland. It is so nice to have a few sunny days after a few wet and cold days.

It is so good to give you updates on Living Hope School. This year is very special for us because Living Hope School will be completing its 8th year by the end of this month. It is with great joy that I tell you that 15 of our students will be leaving us to start higher secondary school. The girls in the pictures were amongst the very first students who started with us. Soon we will be saying goodbye to them. They will be missed but we are so proud that they continued their learning despite many of the challenges. Living Hope will continue to support them as they continue their further education.

The Covid situation has improved significantly in Baddomalhi. The learning at school is going well. Last week in February was an art week and all the classes did their art projects. They had a great week making the models.

Thank you again for your continued support over the years. Living Hope could not have managed it without your financial support. Covid and the war in Ukraine are affecting everyone's lives as even the cost of food has increased significantly. We hope that these students' parents would not have to choose between educating their children and feeding them.

God bless,

Rev Imran Malik

10 Portland Road, Hawkhead Road, Paisley PA2 7GH



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COLLEGE PARK PLAYERS INVITE YOU TO THEIR 20TH YEAR CELEBRATION QUIZ AND SUPPER NIGHT

IN AID OF CHURCH FUNDS

SATURDAY 10th SEPTEMBER 2022

At **BURNT ASH METHODIST CHURCH HALL**
Burnt Ash Hill, Lee, SE12 0QD

7:00 pm for a prompt 7:15 pm start

SO BRUSH UP YOUR GENERAL KNOWLEDGE AND JOIN IN THE FUN!

**PRIZES FOR WINNING TEAM
BINGO (included in ticket) Plus RAFFLE**

COME ALONE, A SMALL GROUP OR UP TO A TEAM OF UP TO EIGHT

COST £10 PER HEAD

TO INCLUDE PLOUGHMAN'S SUPPER & SALAD,
SOFT DRINKS, NIBBLES, TEA & COFFEE

(Please note that no alcohol is allowed on the premises)

QUIZ NIGHT Saturday 10th September 2022

I would like to enter players (£10 per head)

Name Tel no / e-mail

Address

Name of team (if known)

- I ENCLOSURE A CHEQUE FOR £ payable to College Park Players
- WISH TO PAY BY BANK TRANSFER

COLLEGE PARK PLAYERS Sort Code: 20-29-63 A/c No.: 40386960
REF: Please use surname of person booking the places.

Send entries to: Quiz bookings, 18 Crown Woods Way, Eltham SE9 2NN

Or scan entry form and email to debbiewhitewood@gmail.com

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