



The **Methodist Church**
Blackheath and Crystal Palace Circuit
Quarterly Newsletter

Issue 26

June 2019

Superintendent Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

'It's from the old I travel to the new; keep me travelling along with you' (StF 476)

Moving on from the old to the new, as Sydney Carter's hymn 'One more step along the world I go' reminds us, can be a challenging business.

The next few months will be a time of great change in our circuit as Bill and Renate prepare to leave us, and as Rohama and Asif prepare to join us. Change, as Jongi steps aside as our District Chair and Nigel takes over. Change also for Abe, our Probationer, and her churches at Upper Norwood and Anerley as they prepare for her ordination this summer. Preparing to say goodbye to the old and embrace new is never easy. Most of us would prefer to avoid too much change which can leave us feeling threatened and vulnerable. This fear of change can also influence the way we think about our faith.

The writer of the book of Ecclesiastes was a very clever man, a philosopher who also had great faith in God. It seems he was searching for truth in life, and at times, his book reflects the despair of his frustrating search. But by chapter 3 he had come to realise that there was meaning in life, and that meaning was to be found in the ever-changing nature of the world in which God has placed us:

*'For everything its season and for every activity under heaven it's time...
a time to embrace and a time refrain from embracing'*

Just as we have embraced and been embraced the ministry of one friend, so soon we need to be ready to refrain from that embrace and instead to welcome the embrace of another.

Jesus also expected his friends to embrace change and move on. When the disciples threw down their fishing nets and followed him, they were embarking on a very uncertain journey of faith. 'Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay down his head' he told them in Matthew 8:20. Meaning that the follower of Jesus has to be willing to move on and embrace the future with courage.

In all of this, remember that we do not travel alone. We travel with a Saviour who knows what it is to experience painful change that led him to the cross. We travel also with the strength and guidance of the Holy Spirit who will give us the knowledge and the strength we need to move on with confidence to a brighter and better future.

Kind regards,

Richard

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

Saturday 7th July 2019
Farewell service
for Rev. Bill Tardy and Renate Laloo
4.30pm at Burnt Ash Methodist Church
Buffet reception to follow
All are welcome

Letter from Rev. Bill Tardy

Dear Friends,

As my mother often says, time rolls on like a highway and all its paths are new. It hardly seems possible that another five years have passed by and Renate and I are preparing to head off into new adventures. At the moment, our Regional Coordinator with Encounter Worldwide is about to make a trip to Tonga. She will be attempting to assist them in finalizing their expectations and examining our proposed living accommodations.

So, you might wonder, what exactly will you two be doing in Tonga? It is my understanding that I have been asked to consult with the educational organization; as they seek to establish a special needs curriculum. Renate has offered to assist with fitness training or provide assistance at one of the local schools. I recently discovered that there has been an increase in Peace Corps volunteers to assist in teaching English for 2018-2020 in Tonga. So, we will probably not be needed in that capacity.

Renate and I will travel towards Tonga in mid-August and aim to arrive there at the beginning of September. We have agreed to be there for 9 to 10 months and then return to the UK and either return again after visiting family or pursue other adventures. As I have commented to Renate, at this moment we have lots of positive options available to us.

So, I thank you for allowing us to be part of this past 5 years in the Blackheath & Crystal Palace Circuit. I would like to offer my profound sense of gratitude to my three churches, the leadership within them and the young people who have enriched my life. In July, we will bid you all a fond farewell but the memories of our times together will always be within our hearts. May the love of God continue to guide our journeys of discipleship, wherever we may be within the world.

Best Wishes,

Revd Bill Tardy & Renate Laloo

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LONDON DISTRICT NEWS

After two years as Chair of our area of the London District, we are sorry to be saying goodbye to Jongi Zihle, who leaves us with effect from 31 August 2019. However, we are delighted to welcome back Nigel Cowgill, who was Chair of South of the London District from December 2016 – August 2017.

The following is an extract of the notification that was issued by the London District Chairs in March 2019:



Dear Friends,

The District Chairs, with the blessing of the District Council, write to inform you that Jongi Zihle and Nigel will change areas of pastoral responsibility as from 1st September 2019. Jongi will serve the North of the District and Nigel will serve the South of the District. Micky will continue to serve the West of the District.

To allow a smooth transition please note the following:

- The district office will release dates for welcome services in August and September;
- The Chairs are committed to serving the whole of the district and therefore all preaching appointments that have already been agreed will be honoured. We see it as a privilege to share in worship with you throughout the district and therefore as per current practice, we are happy to accept preaching appointments across the district as a whole

We are grateful for all the work that you do in your circuit and communities for the sake of the Kingdom of God

With every blessing,
Nigel, Jongi, and Micky
London District Chairs

Rev. Alberta Konadu-Yiadom

We are delighted to be able to report that, subject to confirmation by the Methodist Conference, our Probationer Minister, Abe Konadu-Yiadom, will be ordained on **Sunday 30th June 2019**. Congratulations Abe! Abe's 'reception into Connection' will take place at this year's Methodist Conference in Birmingham, (Conference begins at 10.30am). The ordination ceremony itself will be at **4pm**, in Coventry Central Hall, Warwick Road, Coventry, CV1 2HA.

Please note that entrance to both events is by ticket only. Abe has suggested that for the service in the afternoon, each church in our Circuit might like to send two representatives to support her. For further information, please contact either Abe, Richard or Linda.

Richard

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Pentecost Sunday 9th June 2019

Pentecost is one of the principal days of the Christian year, celebrated on the fiftieth day after Easter. The Greek word *pentecoste* means "fiftieth day." Pentecost is the day on which the Christian church commemorates the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles and others assembled in Jerusalem. It marks the beginning of the Christian church and the proclamation of its message throughout the world and is often referred to as the birthday of the church. The liturgical colour for Pentecost is red. Traditionally, Pentecost has been a day for baptisms. Because it was the custom in the early church for persons being baptized to wear white robes or clothing, the day also became known as Whitsunday, a contraction of white Sunday.



BLACKHEATH & CRYSTAL PALACE CIRCUIT **EASTER OFFERING SERVICE ON SUNDAY 12th MAY**

Our Circuit Easter Offering Service was held on Sunday 12th May 2019 at Burnt Ash Church. The Guest Preacher was Rev Bill Tardy. The service provided an opportunity for churches, circuits and districts to gather and celebrate God's mission activity in the wider world. The Easter Offering 2019 theme 'Longer tables, Lower fences', featured stories of shared hospitality across the world. The worship encouraged us to consider how we might build longer tables, rather than higher fences, as we share whatever we have and connect with our neighbours. The service included the dedication of the Circuit's Easter Offering, all of which goes to the World Mission Fund of the Methodist Church in Britain for supporting Mission Partners around the world. Thank you to all the congregations of the nine Churches of the Circuit for their generous giving, the total raised amounted to £4,405.94

Ira Fernando

Circuit Missions & MWiB Secretary

Methodist Mission in Britain

Thank you to all of you who came to the **Old-Fashioned Afternoon Tea on 23rd February** or supported in any way. Your very generous giving raised £555 which will go to the Methodist Mission in Britain Fund on behalf of our circuit.

Everyone appreciated the wonderful musical accompaniment from Martin and his Palm Court style trio to enjoy while eating our tea.

Thank you very much for your support. *Mary Sparkes*, Mission in Britain rep.

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A Day to explore becoming a District of Sanctuary: 23rd March 2019 at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster

Report by Saira Bohan-Croft, B Ed (Hons) MA, Forest Hill Methodist Church

What is a Sanctuary?

- A Sanctuary is a safe place where we can live without fear.
- A place where we feel welcomed and have a sense of belonging.
- A place where we can learn and grow.
- A place where we can contribute and realise our full potential.

The history of the City of Sanctuary? Is it a movement or a network?

The City of Sanctuary movement started in the USA. The movement is committed to building a culture of HOSPITALITY and WELCOME for people fleeing persecution and violence. In 2004, the Birmingham Declaration was launched at the first Sanctuary Summit in the UK and has been endorsed by more than 320 organisations. This was followed by the Sanctuary movement in Sheffield in 2005 founded by Rev Indergit Bhogal OBE. By 2017 there were over 100 groups in towns and cities across the UK and the number continues to grow. City of Sanctuary groups include refugees themselves working with non-refugee organisations like schools, universities, churches, gardens/ garden centres and health providers amongst other potential organisations. People thrive and grow proactively.

The London District is exploring the possibility of becoming a Sanctuary City. Some of the questions posed included these:

- What would the city look like?
- How can this be done under the hostile environment and the hostile legislation of 2014 and 2016?
- How far do we want to go?
- Many churches and charities are already involved in welcoming strangers. How can we celebrate what they do?
- Can we be guided and informed by our commitment to the five values under the City of Sanctuary Charter?
- Are we willing, able and prepared to undertake what it takes to become a City of Sanctuary?

Questions for Theological reflection by **Nigel Pilmott**:

- How do we create new spaces and places for new people in ways that enable recognition of them in the light of their potential unfavourable experience?
- Where do we discern a calling to advocate?
- Based on theology and his reflection on what emerged from the Calais situation, and hostile legislation in the UK he has posed questions based on the issue.

Well-being:

- What might “life in all its fullness” mean and look like for a refugee seeking sanctuary here?
- Where was ‘God’ and ‘grace’ in the pain of the journey to get here?

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- What is people's wellbeing like against a backdrop of suffering and PTSD?

Culture:

- How can we ensure that our sanctuary is culturally inclusive and appropriate?
- Whose power gets to decide what is being offered and how and when it is being offered?
- How can we deal with the challenge of being a culturally contextual sanctuary?

Faith and Hospitality

- How do we avoid trying to assimilate those seeking sanctuary?
- Can there be intercultural faith dynamics-integration vs assimilation?

Resilience:

- How can we theologically learn from those who have had migration experiences?
- Are they empty vessels to be filled?
- Can we try to walk in their shoes psychologically and with empathy?
- Can we help them to incorporate their experiences into their growth?

Advocacy:

- Where do we discern a calling for advocacy?
- It was clear from Ms Constantine Pennie, legal panel member, that supporting distressed people by being alongside them is necessary and invaluable e.g. in court, doctors etc.

Ben Margolis: Regional co-ordinator shared his experiences working as an activist on a variety of campaigns. He is now developing national strategies for working with universities and community gardens in Oxford. He is director of the Grange which is a 10acre permaculture holding and retreat centre for refugees and asylum seekers. www.thegrangenorfolk.org.uk. illustrates some of his successful initiatives and what can be done and is being done for those who need sanctuary. He said that there is an upswell of initiatives since 2015.

- 9 Universities offering 46 scholarships.
- Nearly 300 schools of sanctuary.
- 5 theatres.
- Gardens and garden centres.
- Faith groups.
- Hosting.
- City of Birmingham has initiated a 5-year policy.

In conclusion, the day was a packed one. It was a day that shared successes despite suffering and hostility. It was a day that posed some big questions. It was a day that enabled us to take the first step along the road to making The London District a City of Sanctuary. London has been a Sanctuary for many throughout its history. Can we do it again for the sake of love of humanity. We will not be alone in this much needed movement. We will work with others, for the future of displaced people and for our future in this chaotic world.

There are no outsiders to God's love. Are there?

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



Dear Friends,

Hope you all are doing well and thank you for your continued support and prayers.

There have been several changes at the Living Hope School recently. In Baddomalhi, the new school year started at the beginning of March. The students at Living Hope schools have settled in their new classes and are doing well. Two of our teachers got married around Christmas time and have left school. We wish them a happy married life and grateful for all their hard work and for the contribution they have made to the Living Hope School Baddomalhi.

We have appointed two new teachers and are happy with their work. Unfortunately, one of our teachers broke her leg and foot in a motorcycle accident but she is recovering well. She will be going through another operation soon. She is on her sick leave and we pray for her swift recovery. We have a replacement teacher in the meantime.

We are extremely grateful for your prayers and all the support for this wonderful project. In my Circuits, lots of churches are supporting Living Hope. I am especially grateful to the Newlands Methodist church for raising £600 and Morley Central Methodist church for choosing Living Hope as their charity of the year. They have been busy organizing various social events such as a film night and music concert to raise money for this wonderful project. We have little overhead and keep our running cost to a minimum. 97% of the money raised for this project directly goes to the School to meet its running costs.

With your support, we will continue to help many families to educate their children. With our school, we are instilling hope and confidence in young minds that will 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,
Rev Imran



Circuit Website: bhcpmethodist.org.uk

Deadline for information for next newsletter: **20th August 2019**

Articles, posters for forthcoming events etc. always welcome

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

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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?**

www.pleasant.org.uk

30th June and 28th July at 3.00pm

ELTHAM PARK METHODIST CHURCH Westmount Road SE9 1XX

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

ADMISSION FREE - Refreshments available



Creative Worship Workshop



With thanks to everyone who either attended the Creative Worship Workshop on Saturday 18th May 2019, or led one of the sessions. A very enjoyable morning of fellowship and talent-sharing through music, drama, scripture and worship.

Circuit Forthcoming Events

Sat. 1 st June	Circuit Concert	4pm	Forest Hill
Thurs. 13 th June	Circuit Meeting	7.45pm	Burnt Ash
Sat. 22 nd June	Circuit Summer Fair	11am – 2pm	Forest Hill
Thurs 27 June – Fri. 4 July Methodist Conference 2019 at Hilton Birmingham Metropole			
Sun. 30 th June	Reception into Connection at Methodist Conference Rev. A. Konadu-Yiadom	10.30 am	Birmingham
Sun. 30 th June	Ordination: Rev. A. Konadu-Yiadom	4pm	Coventry Central Hall
Sat. 6 th July	Safeguarding officers meeting	10am-12 noon	Forest Hill
Sun. 7 th July	Circuit Farewell Service Rev. W. Tardy	4.30pm	Burnt Ash
Buffet reception to follow: all are welcome			
Sat. 13 th July	Circuit 'Saturday' at Anerley	10am	Anerley
Wed. 17 th July	LP & WL meeting	7.45pm	Eltham Park

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FOREST HILL TUESDAY FELLOWSHIP

Tuesday Fellowship, an ecumenical fellowship group, meet at Forest Hill Methodist Church and Centre, Normanton Street, SE23 2DS, from 2:00 on Tuesdays for refreshments and chat, before we start at 2:30 with a hymn and prayers, then listen to a speaker or have an activity. We do not duplicate what church does. We take a small voluntary offering. All are welcome, as we get to know each other better, make new friends and develop our skills. Please come to Tuesday Fellowship meetings, featuring subjects such as:

4 th June	Discussion / Reminiscence session: postcards
11 th June	Jane Moxhay-Baker: Tuesday Tunes
18 th June	Singing our favourite hymns: Compère: Elsie Sutherland
25 th June	Tuesday Fellowship and Bible Study lunch outing. Names to Sue Rhodes in advance please
2 nd July	John Glover: Worship music through the decades
9 th July	Hilary Waterhouse: Pilgrimage
16 th July	Rev. Abe Konadu-Yiadom
23 rd July	Andrea Woolrych, PCSO: General crime prevention and scams / bogus callers
30 th July	Craft session with Sue Rhodes: flowers
(No Tuesday Fellowship meetings in August)	

Website: www.foresthillmethodistchurch.org Telephone number: 020 8291 6996

Email: admin@foresthillmethodistchurch.org

Tuesday Fellowship secretary: Sue Rhodes (suerhodespersonal@gmail.com)

District Training: Creating Safer Space Safeguarding (Advanced level)

The Blackheath & Crystal Palace Circuit was well represented at the Advanced level Safeguarding training on Saturday 11th May 2019 at Forest Hill Methodist Church. A full compliment of thirty people attended the day-long training put on by the London District Safeguarding team.

With thanks to all those who attended, or helped organise the event.

Circuit JMA Shield

With grateful thanks to all those who collect JMA (Junior Mission for All). JMA was created so that children would be able to learn about and support the mission of the Church, and share insights of God's people all over the world. The JMA promise is to: Learn, pray, and serve with the world-wise Church of Jesus Christ.

Church	2015/6	2016/7	2017/8	
Anerley	£ 404.17	£ 736.67	£ 449.74	2016/7 shield winners
Burnt Ash	152.00	175.20	180.00	2017/8 shield winners
Eltham Park	802.27	920.98	779.07	
Forest Hill	113.04	108.40	nil	
Wesley Hall	<u>1,306.60</u>	<u>1,159.90</u>	<u>1,163.01</u>	
Totals	£2,778.08	£3,101.15	£3,271.82	

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TALENTS FESTIVAL: 2nd March 2019 at Shirley Methodist Church

The Talents Festival was another successful day. Entries in handicrafts and cookery classes were on display, and performing classes took place during the day, covering everything from Bible Reading, Poetry Reading and Monologues to solo and group singing and instrumental classes. Folk at Anerley entered 20 classes, both performing and creative, and were successful in obtaining winners in Limerick Writing, Handwriting, Hand Knitting, Card Making and Cookery classes. There is the winning limerick, by Peter Boreham:

An anxious young doctor called Mark,
Woke up in the night with a start,
It went through his head,
That he'd chopped off a leg,
Instead of transplanting a heart (Oh no!!!)

Upper Norwood had some entries in various classes, including cookery, prayer writing, painting, poetry writing and story writing. Nigel Harris entered both the piano and organ classes which were adjudicated 'live' on the day itself and Alison Harris adjudicated several of the vocal classes. Other UNMC folk then helped with stewarding and other duties on the day itself. Here is the prayer submitted by Gerald Hardy:

Prayer for Persecuted Christians

Compassionate God, when we accept the challenge to follow you,
we know that because we are no longer of the world,
we must be prepared to face the possibility of the worst-case scenario,
be it torture, martyrdom or both.

We give you thanks that in our land at present -
though what the future holds may be quite different -
our persecution is likely to come in a much milder form,
perhaps sneering words or some form of discrimination.

The Talents Festival has always played an important part in the life of Wesley Hall. We began by entering the Bromley Festival in the 1990s, where we achieved considerable success. Winners would go on to the Finals which were held at Maidstone, where competitors came from all over the South East to take part. For Wesley Hall this became a family day out. We had several talented families with lovely singing voices and others who could excel at art and craft subjects. The Girls Brigade, Boys Brigade and Sunday School encouraged their members to take part especially in the writing, drama and craft categories. Officers and helpers also contributed to cookery, carpentry and needlework etc. Theatre Club found it an excellent way of keeping everyone together, rehearsing for it after their Christmas show. Our large choir would usually compete in the choral sections, and despite keen competition we were able to win on many occasions.

The Talents Festival is now a smaller affair and is confined to a smaller district and is held at Shirley Methodist Church. However, the essence is still the same and Wesley Hall takes part and are still successful, although we do not have as much competition as in previous years. It would be good if more churches took part, the more the merrier, it's such a happy, friendly day. We at Wesley Hall would be sad to see this great event come to an end.

Margaret Verrier (WH)

The Festival is held every other year; the next Festival will be held on Saturday 6th March

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CIRCUIT CONCERT
Saturday 1st June 2019
4pm at Forest Hill Methodist Church
Normanton Street, SE23 2DS
(Buses 75 and 356 stop in Perry Vale, nearby)

Before climbing Mount Kilimanjaro in July Taiwo will be volunteering for a few days at a newly built orphanage 'Summit Happy Home' in Arusha, Tanzania which opens on 1st May 2019

Funds raised from this Concert will go towards creating a Learning Centre at 'Summit Happy Home' housing children aged between 3-10 years old.

Tickets price £5 available from John Collis.

**Please send a cheque made out to
Forest Hill Methodist Church & Centre with a SAE to:
John Collis, 70 Dundee Road, SE25 4QJ**

Tickets will be available on the door.

COLLEGE PARK PLAYERS
QUIZ NIGHT SATURDAY 29th JUNE 2019

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

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

COME ALONE OR AS A TEAM OF UP TO EIGHT PARTICIPANTS

COST £8.00 PER HEAD

INCLUDES PLOUGHMAN'S SUPPER, SOFT DRINKS, NIBBLES, TEA & COFFEE

Further details: debbiewhitewood@gmail.com

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**BLACKHEATH & CRYSTAL PALACE
CIRCUIT**

CIRCUIT MISSIONS

SUMMER FAIR

SATURDAY 22ND JUNE 2019

11AM TO 2PM

**FOREST HILL METHODIST CHURCH & CENTRE,
NORMANTON STREET,
SE23 2DS**

- * Raffle
- * Fairtrade
- * Stalls and more!
- * Lunch and afternoon tea

*Tables for hire £10 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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