


The Methodist Church
Blackheath and Crystal Palace Circuit
Quarterly Newsletter

Issue 48

March 2024

Superintendent Minister's Letter

Dear friends,

Mothering Sunday

The fourth Sunday of Lent every year is known as 'Mothering Sunday' or 'Mother's Day'. Traditionally, it goes back to the days when many children worked as domestic servants in wealthy homes. On this Sunday, the children were allowed to go home to visit their mothers. Many would collect wild flowers along the way and present them on arrival to their mothers.

This year, on March 10th, millions of people all over the country and all over the world will be giving cards, bunches of flowers, boxes of chocolates and other tokens of love to their mothers. On this special day, we want to give thanks to God for the love of our mothers who brought us into the world, cared and nurtured us through our infancy and childhood, reared us through adolescence and set us on our path into life.

When you think about it, how often do we really say thank you to our Mum's? Not just for the tasty dinner, the ironed shirt or the bandaged wound but how often do we really say thank you to them for just being who they are, people of self-giving love whose hearts are always in the right place? The answer is, not often enough. So, on this Mothering Sunday, let's take a chance to do that.

We want to give thanks to God for a love which asks no questions and just keeps loving us into adulthood and beyond. For us Christians, this day also reminds of the love of God, a love which is also unconditional. A love which knows no limits, cares and cherishes us throughout our lives and keeps on loving us no matter how wayward we may become.

If you want to look for a living example of self-giving love in our world, you need look no further than our mothers. Mothers love us from the depths of their hearts, not because we have earned that love, but because that's the way they are, it's in their nature to love and care for us. On Mothering Sunday, we thank God for the gift of mothers in whom we all place our uttermost trust, mothers who nourish and care for us when all goes wrong in our lives and bring us up in love and kindness.

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

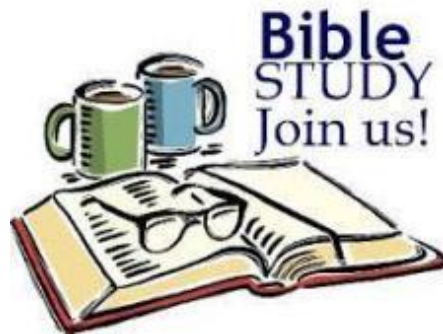
Of course, we also want to recognise that not all women are mothers. Some have never had the opportunity to have children, and some have sadly lost children. On this Sunday, we want to hold all women in our hearts. May all women know that they are loved and cared for.

I wish you all a very happy Mother's Day, may it be a day of joy not just for mothers young and old but for all women whether you have children or not. May you know that we appreciate all that you have done for us and continue to do for us. May you be pampered and appreciated not just today, but throughout your lives and may you know that God loves you and goes with you as you live out your lives to his praise and glory, Amen.

Kind regards,

Richard

Blackheath & Crystal Palace Circuit



Weekly Thursday Morning zoom Bible Study Finding 'The Way' together

Thursday mornings 10.00am to 11.00am facilitated by Margaret Boreham

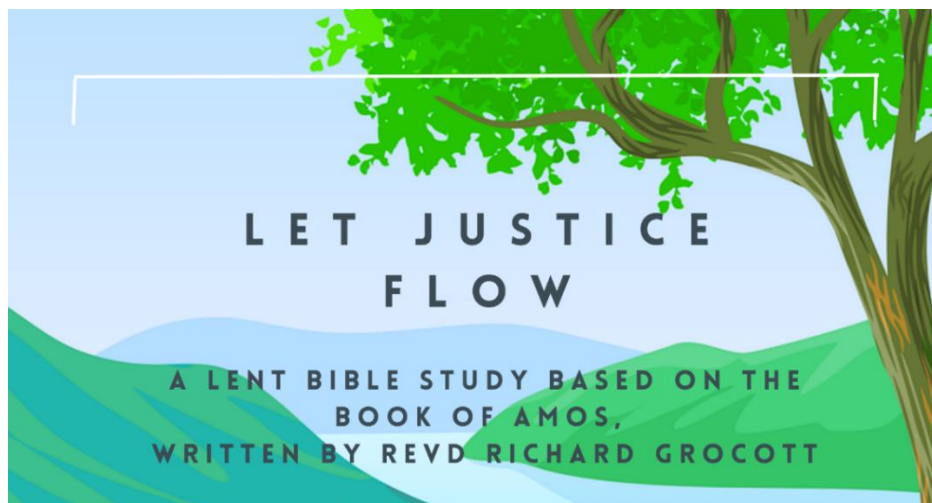
The zoom opens at 9.45am with the study beginning at 10am. Conversations are based on a Bible passage and there will be questions to make us think and rethink. There is an opportunity and time to share thoughts and questions. Closing remarks are at 11am for those who want just an hour, but stay open after 11am for anyone keen to chat or continue the conversations sparked by the Bible Study.

Margaret on mboreham5@gmail.com, 07483 86 86 12

Recurring zoom link:

<https://zoom.us/j/98461065032?pwd=NTJFUmJlWHVubjZwaWVCNzd0MlEvdz09>

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LENT STUDY COURSES AROUND THE CIRCUIT

'Let Justice Flow' is a six-week Bible study based on the ministry of the Old Testament prophet Amos. The study raises deep and searching questions of faith: What kind of God would allow such pain and suffering to occur in his world? Can God's people expect protection from natural or human-made disasters? The study also addresses issues of social justice, which are present throughout the Book of Amos. These issues are then situated within our current time through the report 'A Justice-seeking Church'. The Methodist Conference of 2023 adopted this report and commended it to the wider Methodist Church (throughout Great Britain) for prayerful study and action. It is a response to our calling as Christians to explore what it means to act justly, love kindness and walk humbly with God which is seen as integral to a Methodist way of life. The aim of this study is to challenge comfortable faith, whilst also feeding and nourishing those who seek to better understand their world and their place within God's creation.

Anerley and Upper Norwood Churches: Rev. William Davis is encouraging members to join the zoom Lent course organised by Forest Hill/Wesley Hall: see below

Burnt Ash Methodist Church: 11am Wednesday mornings, led by Rev. Craig Gaffney: Lent reflections commencing with Ashing Service on 14th February, then weekly thereafter.

Eltham Park Methodist Church: 2.30pm Thursday afternoons on 15th February and 14th March, led by Rev. Richard Grocott.

Forest Hill and Wesley Hall Methodist Churches: Ashing service 7.30pm on 14th February at Forest Hill, then 7pm Tuesday 20th February and weekly thereafter via zoom, led by Rev. Charles ILunga. Zoom link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6207575606>

Lewisham Methodist Church: 7.30pm Tuesday evenings led by Rev. Richard Grocott, commencing 20th February 2024, then weekly thereafter.

Sunfields Methodist Church: 7.30pm Wednesday evenings led by Rev. Craig Gaffney Grocott, commencing 14th February 2024, then weekly thereafter.

All are welcome to any of these sessions

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"BLESSED ...
AND CALLED
TO BLESS!"

DAFFODIL DAY 2024

MCHW'S SPRING
FESTIVAL FOR CHRISTIAN
ENCOURAGEMENT
AND RENEWAL

**Methodist Central Hall
Westminster**

Storey's Gate, Westminster, SW1H 9NH



SATURDAY **2**
MARCH

1.40PM FOR 2PM

**SPECIAL GUESTS
INCLUDE**

Pam Rhodes (Presenter & Author)
A team from LCGC (London Conference by Gospel of Choice)
Anando Mukerjee (Soloist)
Lord Mayor of Westminster
Revd Gill Newton (President of Conference)
Tom Hart (Youth President)
Revd Nigel Cowgill (London District Chair)
Maggie Woods (Co-Chair of NWED)
MCHW's Choir and Staff Team.
Marking MHA's 80th Anniversary too!

mchw.live t: 020 7654 3809

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**BLACKHEATH & CRYSTAL PALACE
CIRCUIT MISSIONS**

LENT 2024

***SAVE 30 PIECES OF SILVER
FOR THE 40 DAYS OF LENT***



Matthew 26 vs 14 to 16

*Then one of the twelve disciples – the one named Judas Iscariot –
went to the chief priests and asked, “What will you give me if I betray Jesus to you?”
They counted out thirty silver coins and gave them to him.
From then on Judas was looking for a good chance to hand Jesus over to them.*

***STARTING ON ASH WEDNESDAY
14TH FEBRUARY 2024***

Gift Aid in an Easter Offering Envelope

Drawstring bags are now available via your church, or mission rep.

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CIRCUIT YOUTH EVENT

- SUNDAY 21ST APRIL 2024
- 5PM – 6:30PM
- HITHER GREEN
METHODIST CHURCH
- 7 – 23 YEAR OLDS
(UNDER 12 ACCOMPANIED)
- FAITH – FUN - FOOD



For more information contact Rev. Craig Gaffney: craig.gaffney@methodist.org.uk

Easter Offering Service 5th May 2024 4.30pm, Forest Hill Methodist Church *Refreshments served from 4pm*



This Easter Offering service tells stories of people standing for justice, persisting in the face of setbacks and taking up the challenge anew as circumstances change. Some stories show how people now have hope because justice has ‘rolled’ into their lives.

Let Justice Roll offers churches, circuits and districts a celebration of God’s just purposes across the wider world. It includes the dedication of the Easter Offering donated to the World Mission Fund of the Methodist Church in Britain, working with over 100 Partner Churches and organisations around the world

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Blackheath and Crystal Palace Circuit Envisioning

Update on progress from the Way Forward Group

Progress report, Spiritual Growth:

- Prayer handbook: The Circuit Leadership Team have received very positive feedback. The prayer handbooks are proving to be a valuable resource, and it has been agreed that they will be ordered annually from now on. Churches will be supplied with ten copies for use in fellowship groups etc.
- Lent Bible Study: The CLT were delighted to see in print the Lent Study Course written by Rev. Richard Grocott, 'Let Justice Flow'. This study is based on the Book of Amos and was written by Richard during his sabbatical. Details of Lent courses around the Circuit are available in this newsletter.
- Bible month: The Circuit will once again engage with 'Bible Month'. Services during June 2024 will focus on the Book of Genesis; further details to be circulated nearer the time.
- Craig continues to support Youth across the Circuit. The next quarterly youth service at Hither Green is on 21st April. The Circuit will once again be supporting Craig with his commitment to 3Generate. The event, at Birmingham, will be 4th-6th October and Craig is inviting young people aged 8-23 to contact him if they would like to attend.

Progress report, Future Shape of the Circuit:

From September 2025 the Circuit is likely to reduce to three ministers. Discussions as to how this can be most sensibly achieved are in progress, and ongoing. It is recognised that reducing to three ministers will put considerable strain on the Circuit in terms of preacher availability, pastoral support and administration. The Way Forward Group have recently met with a representative from another Circuit where lay workers play an important role in supporting ministers and churches. This has given the group 'food for thought'.

Churches across the Circuit are being reminded that they should produce Mission plans. These are to be presented at church Council meetings in the Spring of 2024. Once these have been approved at church level, they will be

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presented at the Summer Circuit meeting. These mission plans (Our Church's Future Story) are extremely important for future planning and are intended to provide not only an idea of strengths and weaknesses, but how resources can be targeted and shared.

The Way Forward Group meets via zoom and is open to anyone who wishes to contribute to discussions regarding the future of the Circuit in terms of Spiritual Growth and Reconfiguring. If you are interested in finding our more please contact Garry Young for further details.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 25th April 2024, 7.30pm via zoom

February 2024



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‘Safer Internet’: A reminder of the need to stay safe when online
written by Claire De Stefano, District Safeguarding Officer

More apps, more accounts and more passwords create more opportunities for theft. Meanwhile, human nature stays the same. ‘123456’ is still the most used password in the world!

How to better protect your Accounts

Reusing passwords across all platforms makes them less safe. For example, if you use the same password for a TV streaming service and your online bank service, a data breach at one could put the other at risk. This applies to passwords that are similar with small tweaks.

Make your Passwords impossible to guess.

When coming up with passwords, people tend to gravitate toward the same themes, favourite football teams, memorable dates, pet’s names for example. Always try to avoid using passwords with any personal significance. Passwords that are longer than 12 characters with plenty of numbers, letters and special symbols are recommended.

Top tips:

- Change passwords periodically.
- Never repeat passwords.
- Use lowercase, capital letters and special characters.
- Never include personal information.
- And most importantly- NEVER SHARE YOUR PASSWORD



DO YOU LIKE A GOOD TUNE?

THEN WHY NOT COME ALONG TO A CONCERT BY THE

ELTHAM PARK PLEASANT

SUNDAY AFTENNOON ORCHESTRA

28th April, 26th May and 30th June 2024 at 3.00pm

ELTHAM PARK METHODIST CHURCH

Westmount Road SE9 1XX

♪ **LIGHT CLASSICS** **SHOW SELECTIONS**

♪ **FAVOURITE HYMNS** **POPULAR STANDARDS**

ADMISSION FREE

Refreshments available

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	Blackheath & Crystal Palace Circuit Forthcoming Events	
Weekly	Thursday morning zoom Bible Study <i>All are welcome</i>	10-11am
Sat 16 th March	District Safeguarding Conference Westminster Central Hall	10am
Thurs 11 th April	CLT meeting at Burnt Ash Methodist Church	7.30pm
Sat 13 th April	Circuit Safeguarding Officers gathering Forest Hill Methodist Church	10am
Sat 20 th April	District Synod, Westminster Central Hall	10am-1pm
Sun 21 st April	Circuit Youth Event Hither Green Methodist Church	5pm
Thurs 25 th April	Way Forward Group meeting via zoom	7.30pm
Sun 5 th May	Easter Offering service Forest Hill Methodist Church	Refreshments 4pm, service 4.30pm
Thurs 9 th May	LP & WL meeting at Forest Hill Methodist Church	7.30pm
Wed 5 th June	Circuit Property and Resources Meeting Burnt Ash Methodist Church	7.30pm



Revd Nigel
Cowgill

Advanced Notification

London District Chair Rev Nigel Cowgill's Leaving Service will be on
Sunday 21 July 2024, 6pm-8pm at Hinde Street Methodist Church.

Women Emulating Susanna Wesley (WESUW)

Meetings on the last Saturday of the month at Upper Norwood Methodist Church,
11am-1pm; 23rd March, 27th April and 25th May 2024

All are Welcome

Circuit website: bhcpmethodist.org.uk

Deadline for information for next newsletter: **20th May 2024**

Articles, posters for forthcoming events etc always welcome

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

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LEWISHAM FOODBANK LENT APPEAL

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WEEK 1 Toiletries week

Ideas:

- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Shower gel
- Sanitary towels
- Deodorant
- Razors
- Shaving foam/gel
- Razors
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Soap



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WEEK 2 Veggie/vegan week

Ideas:

- Chickpeas
 - Tinned tomatoes
 - Pasta Sauce
 - Pulses
 - Rice
 - Pasta
- NO BAKED BEANS!**



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WEEK 3 Baby week

Ideas:

- Nappies (large sizes only)
- Baby wipes
- Baby toiletries

**NO FORMULA OR
BABY FOOD**



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WEEK 4 Treat week

Ideas:

- Chocolate
- Easter eggs
- Biscuits
- Crisps



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WEEK 5 World foods week

Ideas:

- Why not check the World Foods section of your supermarket and choose something in a packet or tin
- Coconut milk
- Halal meat



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WEEK 6 Cleaning week

Ideas:

- Laundry tablets/capsules
- Washing up liquid
- Surface cleaners
- Toilet roll
- Bleach



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Donations can be dropped off at
Lewisham Foodbank Warehouse | 353H Bromley Road | SE6 2RP
(entrance via Beachborough Road)
Monday – Friday 9 am – 4 pm

Thank you!

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EASTER SERVICES AROUND THE CIRCUIT

All are Welcome



Maundy Thursday Services: Thursday 28th March

Anerley	7pm	led by Rev. William Davis
Eltham Park	7.30pm	led by Rev. Richard Grocott (HC)
Forest Hill	7.30pm	led by Rev. Charles ILunga (HC)
Sunfields/URC	7.30pm	led by Rev. Craig Gaffney (URC)

Good Friday Services: Friday 29th March



Anerley	9.15am	led by Rev. William Davis
Burnt Ash	10am	led by Dr Linda Ryan
Eltham Park	11am	led by Rev. Richard Grocott
Forest Hill	10.30am	led by Rev. Charles ILunga
Hither Green	12.30am	led by Rev. Craig Gaffney
Lewisham	9..30am	led by Rev. Richard Grocott
Sunfields	10.30am	led by Rev. Craig Gaffney
Upper Norwood	11am	led by Rev. William Davis
Wesley Hall	joint with Forest Hill	

Easter Day Services: Sunday 31st March



Anerley	9.15am	led by Rev. William Davis (HC)
	11am	led by Mrs Valerie Tredinnick
Burnt Ash	10.30am	led by Rev. Craig Gaffney (HC)
Eltham Park	9.15am	led by Rev. Richard Grocott (HC)
Forest Hill	11am	led by Rev. Charles ILunga (HC)
Hither Green	10.30am	led by Chris Watkins
Lewisham	10.30am	led by Rev. Richard Grocott (HC)
Sunfields	10.30am	led by Mrs Lesley Murray
Upper Norwood	11am	led by Rev. William Davis (HC)
Wesley Hall	9.30am	led by Rev. Charles ILunga (HC)



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