



The Methodist Church
Blackheath and Crystal Palace Circuit
Easter Newsletter

Issue 37

April 2020

Superintendent Minister's Letter

Easter 2021

This joyful Eastertide,
What need is there for grieving?
Cast all your cares aside and be not unbelieving
*Come share our Easter joy
That death could not imprison,
Nor any power destroy,
Our Christ, who is arisen.*

(Singing the Faith 314)

Dear Friends,

This hymn by Fred Pratt Green, the late great hymn writing Methodist Minister reminds us of the joyful theme of the Easter season. I write this message on one of the first days of spring, which following a cold winter has quite suddenly seen the arrival of milder, drier and sunnier weather. Very soon, all around us will be the signs of the changing season; flowers and tree blossom coming into bloom, the arrival lady birds, and migratory birds. All these remind us that life, which laid low for so long over the winter months is at last 'springing up green.'

This is going to be the second Easter we will celebrate since the Covid 19 epidemic hit our country. Just as spring is a season of hope and anticipation, so we are increasingly hopeful that as infections rates are falling and vaccines are being rolled out, the government's roadmap out of lockdown points to a better future. For this reason, our circuit meeting on 10th March 2021 agreed that churches may return to worship from Palm Sunday (28th March) as long as they keep to their Covid risk assessments.

A number of churches have decided to return to worship from Easter onwards, others have decided to wait until later. We don't wish anyone to feel under pressure, and we recognise that some may still be isolating for some time yet. At the same time, we want to offer all who do so desire, the opportunity to worship

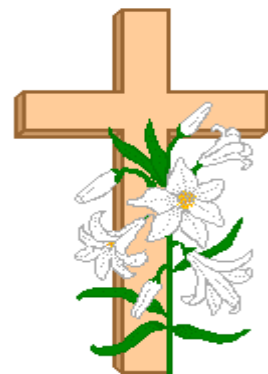
**Anerley Burnt Ash Eltham Park Forest Hill Hither Green
Lewisham Sunfields Upper Norwood Wesley Hall**

safely in church this Easter. Details of which churches are opening, and how frequently, are included in this newsletter, but we do suggest that if in doubt, you contact stewards at these churches to confirm. I do hope and pray that this Easter will be a joyful festival for you all. Whether you celebrate Easter in church or watching our circuit on-line services, may you celebrate the joy of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the grave.

As we travel through the Easter season, let us be reminded of the many ways in which the risen Jesus appeared to his disciples following their discovery of the empty tomb on that first Easter day. He appeared to them in the Upper Room, as they were fishing on Lake Galilee and as they were walking along the road to Emmaus. Each of these appearances offered not just a joy to those early disciples but are also offering joy to us today. They remind us that there is no moment in our lives, and no location in our world which the risen Jesus cannot transform into hopeful places of encounter with God. Jesus also tells us that anyone who believes and trusts in him will be blessed with the gift of eternal life. In other words, Jesus overcame the power of death not just for himself, but for all of us, and all we need to do is believe to know this truth.

I wish you all a very Happy Easter, may it be an uplifting and encouraging season of growth for you, your families and all your loved ones, and may you know the joy that comes from a life in Christ, Amen.

Richard



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Good Friday: 2nd April 2021

Though many churches are returning to worship on Easter Day, none of the churches in our circuit will be holding an in person Good Friday service. Instead, you are invited to join our circuit Good Friday service by Zoom at **11am** on this most Holy day. The live service will include prayers, readings, music and reflections from all members of the circuit staff as we remember the day on which our Lord Jesus died on the cross of Calvary.

Please log in using the details below:

<https://zoom.us/j/92237220631?pwd=a3NzdlpBdEhmeV VXUTBKaFZXYWhvZz09>

Meeting ID: 922 3722 0631

Passcode: 956228

Easter Day: 4th April 2021

The following churches in our Circuit will be open for worship on Easter day:

Anerley Methodist Church
Burnt Ash Methodist Church
Eltham Park Methodist Church
Forest Hill Methodist Church
Hither Green Methodist Church
Sunfields Methodist Church
Upper Norwood Methodist Church

Please contact church stewards for details of service times etc.

Please note:

- Lewisham Methodist church will not open for worship until 23rd May 2021.
- Wesley Hall Methodist church will remain closed until further notice.
- Forest Hill Methodist Church will open on Easter Day but is likely to close at some point shortly after to allow for building work to commence. Please contact the church for further information.
- Anerley, Burnt Ash, Eltham Park and Sunfields Methodist churches will open weekly thereafter.
- Hither Green and Upper Norwood Methodist churches will hold services fortnightly from Easter Day until 23rd May when they will then be held weekly.

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



Christ the Lord is risen today

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!
Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Once he died our souls to save, Alleluia!
Where's thy victory, boasting grave? Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

Hail the Lord of earth and heaven, Alleluia!
Praise to thee by both be given, Alleluia!
Thee we greet triumphant now, Alleluia!
Hail the Resurrection, thou, Alleluia!

King of glory, soul of bliss, Alleluia!
Everlasting life is this, Alleluia!
Thee to know, thy power to prove, Alleluia!
Thus to sing, and thus to love, Alleluia!

Charles Wesley



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