



The Methodist Church
Blackheath and Crystal Palace Circuit
Quarterly Newsletter

Issue 42

September 2022

Superintendent Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

Faith in a time of anxiety

'Do not be anxious about food and drink to keep you alive and about clothes to cover your body. Surely life is more than food, the body more than clothes.... Can anxious thought add a single day to your life? Do not ask anxiously, 'What are we to eat? What are we to drink?' These are the things that occupy the minds of unbelievers.... Instead, set your mind on God's kingdom and his righteousness, and all the rest will come to you. So do not be anxious about tomorrow; tomorrow will look after itself. Each day has troubles enough of its own' (Matthew 6:25–34 ed.)

We are living through a period of great uncertainty in our world and in our country in particular. War in Ukraine has brought horrible suffering, death and destruction to that proud country. The impact of war has hit the whole world and is part of the reason for rapidly rising utility costs and the cost of living going sky high! Many people in our country who have struggled to make ends meet in recent years will be pushed beyond their limits in the next few months. Many households will face debt and the choice between eating regular meals or heating their homes this winter. Add to this industrial unrest, spiralling inflation and the ongoing Covid epidemic, and you can see why many people are deeply anxious about their future.

Whilst falling into the trap of undue alarm is something we need to avoid, all of us, even people of faith can not but help have deep concern for the concerns of our world at this troubling time. There are certainly sensible measures all of us can take to keep on top of our family budgets like cutting back on luxury purchases or regulating our heating systems better. Please do speak to your Minister if you find yourselves in dire need.

As Christians, our faith also helps us to face times of anxiety with thoughtfulness, confidence and calm. In Matthew chapter 6, Jesus was speaking to a crowd of very ordinary people in his sermon on the Mount. Most of these people lived very simple lives, often a hand to mouth existence in which money was scarce and resources very limited. Crises such as failed crops, or punitive tax rises impacted on their lives in ways we can only imagine.

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Jesus grew up in this society and knew how vulnerable people were to hard times. Yet in the verses quoted above, he tells his followers not to be anxious about the material things of life. People of faith should instead set their focus on God's kingdom and his righteousness, and the rest will come to us.

There is no doubt that we are all entering a challenging time ahead. However, we continue to place our faith in the living God. The God we have found in Jesus Christ, who has looked after his people in times of need so many times. Our experience of this loving, caring God, gives us the courage to believe that we will not only survive this crisis but, renewed by his Spirit, we will continue to build homes and churches where hope is proclaimed, and new life is discovered.

As we continue to pray for our churches, our friends and families, may the Good Lord, guide, protect and keep us, this day and forevermore.

Yours sincerely,

Richard

World Mission

On **October 23rd 2022** churches in the Blackheath and Crystal Palace are invited to join with churches around the world to celebrate world missions Sunday.

The circuit missions committee encourages all our churches to include a world missions focus and take an offering for the world missions fund in their worship on this day.

This is an opportunity to think about how we are sharing in God's global mission, how we love our global neighbours, and also offers the opportunity for us to acknowledge and celebrate the diversity of God's church and our own cultural diversity locally.

This circuit missions committee will be producing resources for this service which will be made available in September.

Local churches are encouraged at this stage to think about how they might celebrate our global mission and diversity on this particular world missions Sunday, for example:

- Plan a sharing lunch celebrating cuisine from around the world.
- Invite a diverse range of people to be involved in the service and share testimony.
- Think about a particular place/country/situation that is close to their congregation's hearts.

We are delighted to report that the Easter offering appeal total for the World Missions Fund was £2,232.05 and the committee would like thank all who donated

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**Blackheath & Crystal Palace Circuit
warmly welcomes Rev. William Davis**

We wish William and his family a very warm welcome to our Circuit from 1 September 2022. William will have pastoral responsibility for Anerley and Upper Norwood Methodist churches. He will also be preaching around the Circuit, and we look forward to his ministry with us.



William is originally from Ghana and served as Chaplain to the Ghanaian Methodist Fellowship for ten years. He has a passion for Children/Youth work, Mission and Evangelism, Church Growth and allowing the Holy Spirit to use our gifts for the edification of the Church. William is married to Vashti, and they have four children: William, Margaret, Roosevelt and George.

William reflects: A personal and theological reflection that always excites and encourages me in my ministry is the book of Nehemiah. Nehemiah was the king's cupbearer - in modern times he would have been a tea boy. He was not in a high position, he had no status or authority, but because he did his job so faithfully the king noticed that he was unhappy and asked him what was wrong. This gave him a chance to ask for help with the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem. No one is too insignificant for God to use.

The first thing Nehemiah did was to pray to God. He prayed before each decision was made. It is so important to commit your plans to God and make sure you are in line with his will. When the rebuilding began, we are told that there were people from all walks of life involved - goldsmiths, perfume makers, etc., not just builders. God can use anyone in his Church, not just the preachers.

Each man started to build in front of his own house. We need to start where we are. God sometimes calls people to go to other places but often he has a job for you to do right where you are.

God has given us all different gifts that we can use in the building of his Church. We just need to be willing to use them, and open to God's leading.

God bless you.

William

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As this newsletter heads out to the churches of our Blackheath and Crystal Palace circuit in the early weeks of September, myself, a team of volunteers, and a number of our young people will be preparing to head to Birmingham for 3Generate (the annual Methodist children and youth assembly) at the end of this month. I would like to take this opportunity to share my immense gratitude for all those who have encouraged our recent development of youth ministry in the circuit either with their time, support, or kind words. On this occasion we must also thank churches that have financially supported this vision to take our young people to 3Gen alongside the circuit and district funds that, on this occasion, have enabled us to offer free places to our young people (usually £120 + transport each).

It has been a great joy to minister to, and be ministered to by, our young people in this circuit. We have had the pleasure of joining 22 of our young people together across our previous two events. They are full of wisdom, vibrance and grace and continue to teach me a lot about God and discipleship. I hope and pray as we take a small number (11 at time of writing) of our young people to 3Generate that they might feel part of something bigger, that they might feel more connected to the hundreds of other young people at the event, and the thousands more around the Methodist connexion, that they might not feel so alone as young people in the Methodist Church.

I would like to invite you, also, to join with me in praying for our young people and our volunteers as we meet in circuit and journey to 3Generate. Pray that everything will go smoothly, that the logistics will all be sorted easily, for health and enjoyment on the trip. But most of all, pray that God might bind them in friendship, stir their hearts in the various styles of worship, and reveal her spirit to them in new, life-giving, ways. Amen.

Craig Gaffney

A promotional poster for a "Circuit Youth Event". The title "Circuit Youth Event" is written in a large, gold, serif font at the top. Below it, the text reads: "Our next Circuit Youth Event will be on... Sunday 18th September @ Hither Green Methodist Church 5:00-6:30pm For ages 8-23". A smaller line of text says: "This is a chance for young people from across the circuit to come together and share in a time of fun, fellowship, and faith exploration together." At the bottom, it states: "Under 12's must be accompanied by an adult For more info contact: craig.gaffney@methodist.org.uk" and "Faith - Fun - Food". The poster features three overlapping photographs: a person playing a guitar, a group of people sitting in a circle, and a person speaking at a podium.

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Circuit Evening Services/Gatherings on Zoom

The Circuit is continuing to run evening Services/Gatherings on Zoom:

When: The second Sunday of the month:

- 11th September 2022
- 9th October 2022
- 13th November 2022

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.

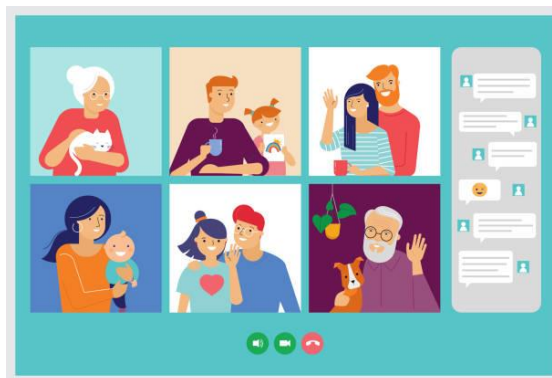
One-to-one help with Zoom available.

We look forward to meeting each other on Zoom.

Margaret Boreham

email:mboreham5@gmail.com,

BCPC Online Team



Circuit website: bhcpmethodist.org.uk

Deadline for information for next newsletter: 20th November 2022

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**

**25th September; 30th October and
27th November 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)'**



Saturday 24th September; Saturday 22nd October;

Saturday 26th November 2022: 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)

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All Inclusive: Additional Needs Training by Urban Saints



Details of Additional Needs Training sessions backed by Mark Arnold, Additional Needs Ministry Director, Urban Saints, were provided via the London District office of the Methodist Church in their 'Our partners' section of their Weekly Update for 26th July 2022.

All Inclusive?' is a series of five different training seminars that cover working with children and young people with additional needs and disabilities. The seminars are designed for church leaders, youth and children's leaders, parents, teachers, and anyone who cares about children and young people with additional needs or disabilities. The sessions are as follows and are cost £7.50-£10 per session.

How to Include Autistic Children and Young People in Church creating accessibility, inclusion, belonging, and spiritual development for all Thursday 15 September | 7:30pm - 9:30pm | For more information and to register: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/all-inclusive-how-to-include-autistic-children-and-young-people-in-church-tickets-365692414857>

Working with children and young people with special or additional needs or disabilities Accessibility, inclusion and belonging for all Thursday 22 September | 7:30pm-9:30pm | For more information and to register: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/all-inclusive-supporting-children-young-people-with-additional-needs-tickets-380202214057>

Supporting families - Understanding and supporting, practically and pastorally, families of children and young people with additional needs Thursday 29 September 7:30pm-9:30pm | For more information and to register: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/all-inclusive-supporting-families-tickets-365697650517>

Making sense of our senses - Exploring eight of our senses and sensory additional needs and disabilities including Sensory Processing Disorder Thursday 06 October | 7:30pm - 9:30pm | For more information and to register: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/all-inclusive-making-sense-of-our-senses-tickets-365711953297>

Disability equality Understanding the Equality Act and how it applies to all children's and youth work Thursday 13 October | 7:30pm - 9:30pm | For more information and to register: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/all-inclusive-disability-equality-tickets-365748572827>

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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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COLLEGE PARK PLAYERS QUIZ & 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

**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 & SUPPER 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 ENCLOSE 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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College Park Players & friends



present

‘As Time Goes By’

Saturday 19th November 2022 at 3pm

Burnt Ash Methodist Church Hall,

Lee, SE12 0QD

All tickets £8.00

Part One: ‘The War Years’

Part Two: ‘Planes Trains and Automobiles’

Includes Afternoon Tea and Cakes

Served during the interval

With Martin Cleave on the piano

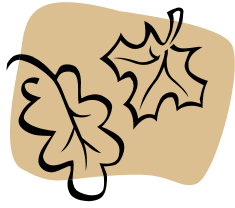
Book early to avoid disappointment

Details and bookings to the Box Office:

11 Pragnell Road, Grove Park, LONDON, SE12 0LF

rynln@aol.com

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Autumn Fayre



Burnt Ash Methodist Church

Burnt Ash Hill, SE12 0QD

(between Kingsand Road and Heather Road)

Saturday 29th October 2022

11am-2pm



... plants/bulbs/seeds

... crafts ... jewellery ... tea bar

... homemade cakes/preserves



... second-hand books ... bric-a-brac

... Christmas decorations/gifts/cards/wrap

... calendars/diaries

... Ploughman's lunch (back hall)

ADMISSION 50p (Children free)

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Circuit Forthcoming Events

Sat. 3 rd Sept.	Welcome Service for Rev. William Davis	4pm	Anerley
Wed. 8 th Sept.	Circuit Leadership Team meeting	7.30pm	Burnt Ash
Sun. 11 th Sept.	Circuit evening service	6pm	via zoom
Sat. 17 th Sept.	London District Representative Synod	10am-4pm	Westminster Central Hall
Sun. 18 th Sept.	Circuit Youth Event	5-6.30pm	Hither Green
Wed. 21 st Sept.	Circuit Meeting	7.30pm	Eltham Park
Sat. 8 th Oct.	Pastoral Visitors training	10am-12noon	Lewisham
Sun. 9 th Oct.	Circuit evening service	6pm	via zoom
Sun. 23 rd Oct.	World Mission Sunday	Morning services across the Circuit	
Thurs. 27 th Oct.	LWP meeting	7.30pm	Sunfields
Sun. 13 th Nov.	Circuit evening service	6pm	via zoom

HARVEST FESTIVALS AROUND THE CIRCUIT

18th September

10.30am	Lewisham	led by Rev. Richard Grocott
11am	Wesley Hall	led by Chris Watkins

25th September

10.30am	Sunfields	led by Joe Koroma
11am	Anerley	led by Lesley Murray
11am	Upper Norwood	led by Rev. William Davis

2nd October

10.30am	Burnt Ash	led by Mary Sparkes
11am	Forest Hill	led by Chris Watkins

9th October

10.30am	Eltham Park	led by Rev. Richard Grocott
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30th October

10.30am	Hither Green	led by Rev. Craig Gaffney
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