

THE INDICATOR

April & May 2015



***Beckenham Methodist
Church***



Bromley Road Church



Clockhouse Road Church

Dear Friends,

Eastertide is my favourite time of the year. It's not only because the days are getting longer and the weather is kinder. It's not only because Nature is bursting out all over the place with new birth on the trees, in the bushes, the gardens, the nests, etc., etc. At the heart of everything is God's recurring theme of making things new; of bringing victory out of defeat, resurrection after death, seeing and knowing the bigger picture. The message of 'the bigger picture' is that God's love does and will triumph over all because love never gives up; it cannot be defeated.

The reality of living with this, though, is that it is an easy thing to **say**. Basing your whole outlook on it takes faith – that New Testament concept that, *only when you live by it, does it open the door* to understanding.

As I say, the reality of living with this is not so easy. This is because we can only live in the present, and what is happening in the present can be quite alarming. Perhaps – as is often the case – a little story can say it better.....

Once there was a Chinese farmer who had a horse. It was the only horse in the region. Because he had a horse, the farmer could plant more and could take his crops further to market. He became very rich. He was a good and gentle man, who gave to the poor. The people loved him. One morning, the farmer woke up and found the gate to the horse paddock open and the horse gone. The people in the village heard about it and came to speak to him. "We're really sorry that your horse, which brought you such wealth, ran away," they said.

The farmer answered with one word: "Maybe."

Three days later, the horse returned with two stallions. Again the people of the village came and said to the farmer, "Aren't you lucky that your horse ran away, because now she has returned with two stallions. Now you have three horses. How blessed you are!" The farmer replied, "Maybe."

The next day, his son, trying to ride one of the new stallions, fell off and broke his leg. The people came and said, "How terrible that your son broke his leg. We are really sorry." The farmer replied, "Maybe."

A few days later, the army conscriptors came and took all the young men from the village to fight in the war. The people came to the farm and said, "Aren't you lucky! Your son broke his leg, and he is not able to fight in the war." The farmer replied, "Maybe."

Events do not always have the meaning which the present seems to be telling us. Sometimes we have to wait and let that bigger picture unfold. After the crucifixion, the disciples gathered together and said, "It's all over. We'll have to go back to fishing." And God said, "Maybe." Then Easter came, and changed everything!

I hope that as you make your way through Eastertide you will grow to see this for yourself again and again and again, and that it may strengthen you and so bless you.

Mike.

West Wickham Methodist Church

As part of their 80th celebrations there will be a Flower Festival on Friday and Saturday 22nd & 23rd May. The Services on Sunday 24th of May will be 10.30aam led by Revd. Roger Wiig and 6.30pm led by Revd. Mike Cassidy

OUTREACH to the HOMELESS

A LONDON FOCUS

The Team Co-ordinator writes: “As you are probably aware our team has, for the past 25 years, distributed food, clothing and toiletries to London’s homeless. On a much smaller scale, but on a more regular basis, we have also supported the local homeless and vulnerable in our area and for some time now we have been aware that the support we offer locally ought to increase because the need in our area has changed significantly, as we can see from the number of food banks operating from most of our churches.

We believe this is the right time to make a move from London as there are a number of new initiatives to support London’s homeless. Boris Johnson has pledged £200,000 to the Independent’s campaign to support London’s growing homeless figures.

For our group it means we do not need to finance the hire of two minibuses each month or to find two competent drivers. The goods donated to us come from local people and churches and we will now be supporting some of the most vulnerable people around us.

We thank our regular sponsors for all their past efforts and hope you will continue to support this valuable work”.

A LOCAL FOCUS

Alongside Living Well (Food Bank) at Holy Trinity Church, Lennard Road, Beckenham

The Team Co-ordinator continues: “Our Committee is already involved with various other voluntary groups and many of us volunteer and support the excellent work that Living Well provides to local vulnerable people many of which are homeless or in temporary accommodation or hostels.

Living Well has now agreed that they would like Outreach to the Homeless to operate a clothes bank alongside their own work and we are all very pleased to offer this support. We started this new phase of our work on Saturday, 14th March 2015.

Local Update:

Our first customer on Saturday the 14th March was a young medically discharged soldier who had fought in Basra, Afghanistan, and had life-changing injuries to his hand and foot. "Help the Heroes" had placed him in a flat in Anerley and he had been directed to Living Well. The clothes bank was able to provide a wardrobe of clothing for which he was extremely grateful.

So, friends, the work continues and **`that box'** in the New Room at Bromley Road is waiting to receive your gifts of new and good second-hand clothing, for men and women, together with toiletries.

Also, if anyone is interested in offering to transport clothes from Penge Congregational Church to Holy Trinity Church at 9.30am and back again (2 cars needed if possible each Saturday, carrying bags from the basement at PCC to the cars, unloading at Holy Trinity and setting up, talking to people and helping them to select clothes/shoes, packing up and unloading at PCC 12.30pm, please let us know – we have team contact names.

*"So let us learn how to serve and in our lives enthrone him,
each other's needs to prefer, for it is Christ we're serving".*

Colin & Valerie

MEN IN SHEDS

As part of our local outreach to charity, for the last few months we have been supporting the above Group. The Mission and Outreach Committee have reported that some £430.85 has been raised so far and a cheque for this amount was presented by Revd Mike Cassidy to the Leaders and 'Shedders' at our Sunday morning service held on 1st March 2015

Thank you to all who have contributed.

Getting to know our members

Contribution from Diane Chorley

I was born in Somerset and went to Minehead Grammar School.

Following teacher-training college (PE and Music) I taught at Woking Girls' Grammar for eight years, and then became an Inspector of Schools in Croydon, concentrating mainly on Special schools and behaviour units. I was lucky enough to be seconded to Sussex University for a year where I completed an M.A.

After twelve years in Croydon I became an H.M.I (before Ofsted !) and worked all over the country inspecting schools and educational provision made in units run by the Social Services. On my appointment as H.M.I, I was asked to work from the Leicester office and had a house there for eighteen years. I attended a Baptist Church while I was there.

I retired marginally early and worked as a consultant and was lucky enough to travel to Hong Kong and the Cayman Islands to join inspection teams.

Having fully retired I moved down to Beckenham in 1999, I joined the Methodist Church and started to enjoy a range of activities in my retirement. Currently, I attend monthly lectures on aspects of art and lead tours abroad; I am President of the Shortlands Poetry Service (established over 100 years ago); belong to a book club and am a member of a French class. My family live in the West Country so I am down there at regular intervals and in between I take holidays.

I recognise that I have been fortunate to have enjoyed all aspects of my working life and that I continue to enjoy visiting other parts of the world.

[Editors' Note:- We would be very pleased to receive more members contributions to this Series for the next Indicator]

FROM THE VESTRY

Three of our long-serving Stewards will be stepping down this year. If you feel you might be able to make the commitment of serving the Church in this way, please talk to any of the Stewards to find out what is really involved. It is very worthwhile to support our preachers and enable the most meaningful worship we can!

The General Church Meeting (open to all) will be held on Sunday 14th June after morning service at Bromley Road, when new Stewards and representatives to the Church Council will be elected.

Please make every effort to attend.

Pastoral care

Also, if you live alone, your Pastoral Visitor will be asking if you would be willing to let her/him know contact details of someone close to you. These would be kept confidentially in each vestry in case of accident.

If there is anything about church life you would like to comment on, please feel free to speak to me

Jenny Nichols

News from Maase, Ghana, **Library Project**

We have heard from the Maase Superintendent Minister, Revd. Ofori Gyawu and the Bishop of Koforidua Diocese, Revd. Michael Bossman that the Library Project is now being developed and Church Council permission has now been granted to release the money we raised to help complete this Project.

Some photographs of the work will be displayed on our Notice Boards in the coming weeks.

A Brief Guide to Methodism - Part 1

The Local Church (Beckenham)

The local church means both the people and buildings within which they meet and build their community. It is the whole body of members of the Methodist Church linked with one particular place of worship.

Local churches (about 6,000 in England, Scotland and Wales) are grouped into **Circuits** (600+), each having a **Circuit Superintendent**. Circuits are grouped into **Districts** (35) led by a **District Chair**.

Some church members belong to the Church Council either because the local church members have elected them, or because they hold one of a number of offices in the local church.

Are you ready to play a part in the life of your church here at Beckenham? Please speak to Jenny Nichols (Senior Steward or any of the team). All can attend the General Church Meeting on Sunday 14th June after morning service at Bromley Road.

In the London District there are at present over 20,000 members belonging to 245 local churches grouped into 43 Circuits.

The Circuit (Bromley)

Local churches in a defined area are usually grouped together into a 'Circuit'. The purpose of the Circuit is to use effectively the resources of people, property and finance for the mission of the church.

The responsibilities of the Circuit are exercised through the Circuit Meeting. Its task is to combine spiritual leadership with administrative efficiency to help the Circuit fulfil its purpose. The Superintendent of the Circuit and the Circuit Stewards have special leadership responsibilities.

Bromley's Superintendent is Revd. Mike Cassidy

Circuit Stewards are: Mary Cook (Beckenham)

Benneive Lawrance-Thompson (Bromley)

Caroline Thomas (West Wickham)

David Jackson (Beckenham)

The District (London)

In each of the 32 Districts in the Methodist Church there is a ‘**Chair of District**’ (Except London, which has three Chairs!) whose job is to lead the ministers and lay people in the mission of the church and to support them pastorally.

Each District has a ‘**District Synod**’ that meets twice a year. Its purpose is to decide policy for the District and to be a link between the Conference and central offices of the Church on the one hand and the Circuits and local churches on the other. Church members become members of the District Synod either because they have been elected or because they hold one of a number of offices in the District or Circuit.

The South London Chair is Revd. Jenny Impey

The Connexion

This is the term used to describe the Methodist Church linked together through Circuits and Districts. Together these form the ‘**Connexion**’.

When ministers or deacons are ordained in the Methodist Church, they are also ‘received into full Connexion’.

The post of **General Secretary** provides overall co-ordination and strategic direction to the Connexion’s work, under the guidance of the **Methodist Council**, a representative body.

The policy-making body of the Methodist Church is the annual (summer) **Conference**, to which the Districts send elected representatives both lay and ordained.

The **Connexion** is served nationally by the Connexional Team based at Methodist Church House, 25 Marylebone Rd, London NW1 5JR

Easter and Other Special Services

Maundy Thursday 2nd April

**Holy Communion will be held at Bromley and
West Wickham Churches at 8.00pm.**

Good Friday 3rd April

**11.00am CTiB Walk of Witness
Starting from St Edmunds, Village Way**

**3.00pm Circuit Service at Bromley Road led by
our Wednesday Class Meeting including the
Easter Offering collection followed by tea**

Easter Sunday 5th April

**8.00am United Holy Communion Service at
Clockhouse Road - Followed by breakfast**

**10.30am United Holy Communion Service at
Bromley Road**

Ascension Day 14 May

**8.00pm St Paul's Church, Brackley Road
Preacher Revd Karen Jobson**

LINDEN CLUB

The West Wickham Methodist Church, Hawes Lane, has a small fellowship group on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month starting at 2.15pm.

We are a very pleasant and friendly group and would welcome some new members. At our meetings we have a variety of speakers and finish with a cup of tea and a chat.

We offer a very warm welcome to anyone who feels they would like to join us.

- 8th April *Livingstone 4x4 East Africa Challenge;*
NASIO - Janet Hrebien
- 22nd April *New Dawn - Doreen Platt and her Choir*
from Shirley
- 13th May *The Craft of Quilling - Diane Boden*
- 27th May *Great Expectations - Revd Mike Cassidy*
- 10th June **A.G.M.**
- 24th June **Garden Party**

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CHURCHES TOGETHER in BECKENHAM

Friday 3 April

The next event organised by CTiB will be the Annual Walk of Witness on Good Friday. As usual this will start at St Edmund's Church, Village Way, at 11am and finish on Beckenham Green with a short Act of Worship. It is a wonderful chance to show Beckenham the churches united and working together so I hope as many as possible will be able to join us.

Following the walk there will be a Circuit Service at Bromley Road at 3pm. More details can be found elsewhere in the Indicator.

Sunday 7 June

CTiB will be holding another Big Picnic this summer on Beckenham Green. This will be held on Sunday 7th June and it is hoped that all the Churches will be involved. Planning is already well under way. Please watch the weekly notices and the next Indicator for more details.

Don't forget that if anyone would like to join Maureen (Bull) and myself at the CTiB meetings we would be very glad to see you. Please speak to Maureen or myself if you are interested.

Thank you

Christine Handel



News of the Church Family

Emily Husband is studying Geography at Durham University and she is very happy there. She wished to be remembered to all her friends at Bromley Road.

Sandra McLeod (Graham's daughter) has had a daughter and we congratulate the parents and Grandpa Graham and Uncle David.

To all those who have recently celebrated their birthdays and those who will do so during April and May we say 'happy birthday to you'!

David Hancock - it was good to see David back in church.

Margaret Haradine - We continue to have her and husband Michael in our thoughts and prayers at this difficult time.

We are very sad to learn of the passing of Revd. Ralph Waggett on the 23rd March. Ralph was Minister of our church from 1981 to 1986. and he worshipped with us at Bromley Road only few weeks ago.

We think of all those who are revising, studying and will be taking exams and we wish them well.



Church Flowers

Bromley Road

April	5th	EASTER
	12th	Valerie Wilson
	19th	Mary Cook
	26th	tba
May	3rd	June & Ken White
	10th	Christine Handel
	17th	United Service CHR
	24th	Joy Huggett
	31st	Gordon Hughes

The Editors would like to thank Margaret Hazlewood for her weekly oversight of the flowers at Bromley Road and for the decorations during the Easter period.

Clock House Road

April	5th	Venus Leon
	12th	Mary Sawyer
	19th	Irene Antwi
	26th	Maureen Bull
May	3rd	Lum & Roy Ntumazah
	10th	Venus Leon
	17th	Mary Sawyer
	24th	Irene Antwi
	31st	Maureen Bull

OPEN DOOR

**Mondays 2.00pm to 3.30pm in the Wesley Lounge
at
Bromley Road.**

Come every week or just when you can.

April	6th	No meeting - Bank Holiday
	13th	Play reading group - Cyril Fletcher
	20th	St. George
	27th	Food for Thought - Fruit
May	4th	No meeting - Bank Holiday
	11th	Mr Jim Holman
	18th	History of Bromley Road Methodist Church (DVD)
	25th	No meeting - Bank Holiday

Always time for chat and refreshments!

All welcome

BROMLEY METHODIST CHURCH
THURSDAY SERVICES at 12.15 pm

Preachers for April

- 2nd *Readings and hymns for Holy Week*
- 9th **Revd Christine Latham**
Bromley and Sheppards Colleges
- 16th **Revd Karen George**
Minister, Bromley Methodist Church
- 23rd **Revd Helen Warmington**
Minister, Bromley & Trinity United Reformed Churches
- 30th *To be confirmed*

Preachers for May

- 7th **Mr John Morley**
Lay Reader, St Luke's Church, Bromley Common
- 14th **Revd Karen George**
Holy Communion for Ascension
- 21st **Revd Russell Chadwick**
Town Centre Chaplain and Pastor, Amazing Grace Church
- 28th **Revd Mike Cassidy**
Superintendent Minister, Bromley Methodist Circuit

All are welcome!

MENS FORUM – PROGRAMME 2015

Our Men's Forum meets monthly on the second Saturday at our Clock House site to provide Christian fellowship based upon presentations of interest followed by discussion. We are pleased to join in witness with our brothers and sisters at Bromley Methodist Church.

April 11 11.00 Nada Shumoogum will address us on Social Services and Care.

We will be concluding our Fund Raising activities for 'Men in Sheds'

April 23 11.00 The Methodist Museum at Wesley's Chapel

May 9 11.00 Visit to Chartwell followed by lunch at The Royal Oak, Crockham Hill, Westerham

May 21 12.15 Bromley Methodist Church followed by lunch

June 13 11.00 My experiences in Indonesia an address by Peter Reardon

June 25 12.15 Bromley Methodist Church followed by lunch.

All interested to join our Group are asked to contact Graham McLeod at 0208 325 5243 or 07534 184 471 or join us at any of our meetings.

Visit to Durham and York

Catherine, my daughter, and I recently visited my granddaughter Emily at Durham University and while up north were able to include a visit to both Durham and York Cathedrals. What magnificent structures, especially as they were built long before any modern equipment to aid their construction. It then dawns upon one that the driving force to construct these buildings over several hundred years was the deep belief and commitment to the Christian heritage of many workers in creating stonework, paintings, fabric, and candles, continuing today with the provision of quiet corners, guides and prayers. *Joe Young*

SEVEN WONDERS OF THE WORLD

A group of students were asked to list what they thought were the present Seven Wonders of the World.

Though there were some disagreements, the following received the most votes:

1. Egypt's Great Pyramids
2. The Taj Mahal
3. The Grand Canyon
4. The Panama Canal
5. The Empire State Building
6. St Peter's Basilica
7. The Great Wall of China

While gathering the votes, the teacher noted one student had not finished her paper. So she asked the girl if she was having trouble with her list.

The girl replied 'Yes, a little. I couldn't quite make up my mind because there are so many'. The teacher said, 'Well tell us what you have, and maybe we can help'.

The girl hesitated then read: I think the Seven Wonders of the World are:

1. To See
2. To Hear
3. To Touch
4. To Taste
5. To Feel
6. To Laugh
7. To Love

The room was so quiet you could have heard a pin drop. The things we overlook as simple and ordinary and that we take for granted are truly wondrous.

Just a gentle reminder that the most precious things in life cannot be built or bought by man.

SCOUT GROUP NEWS

Our Allotment Site - HARRY'S PLOT

Working parties have been taking place over recent weeks and a good bit has been achieved! The vegetable beds have now been aligned and are looking very neat, awaiting some top soil to enrich the existing soil ready for planting potatoes and sowing seeds.

Because it is a very large plot which had not been cultivated for the past two years, the ground had become rough and overgrown and so it was decided to hire a rotorvator for a weekend to try to get the area more manageable.

As well as two sheds, one for tools and one for brewing tea/coffee, there is now a third shed which will serve as a loo. So you might say we now have 'all mod cons'!

By the time you read this we will have held our AGM (25th March) when accounts will have been presented, reports given and future plans discussed.

We will look forward to seeing everyone again at a special Service based on Action for Children on 1st July. See you there!

Colin Wilson Executive Committee Chair

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Please send articles for the next Indicator, covering June July and August 2015, to Jenny Nichols (e-mail jenny.nichols1@ntlworld.com) or Christine Handel (e-mail christine.handel@ntlworld.com) by Sunday 17th May 2015 at the latest for distribution on Sunday 31st May.

Volunteers are requested to join the Folding and Stapling Party at 10.00am on Thursday 28th May in the Wesley Lounge.



EASTERTIDE MELODIES

Fill in the dashes to find some well known Easter hymns

1. T _ _ _ I _ A G _ _ _ H _ _ _ F _ _ A _ _ _
- 2.. A _ _ G _ _ _ , L _ _ _ A _ _ H _ _ _ _
3. Y _ _ _ N _ _ T _ T _ _ _ _ _
4. R _ _ _ O _ , R _ _ _ O _ I _ M _ _ _ _
5. F _ _ _ D _ _ _ A _ _ F _ _ _ N _ _ _ _
6. W _ _ _ I S _ _ _ _ T _ _ W _ _ _ _ _ C _ _ _ _
7. L _ _ I _ T _ _ G _ _ _ H _ _ L _ _
8. M _ _ _ W _ _ , M _ _ _ W _ _ , F _ _ C _ _ _ _ T _ _
K _ _ _
9. T _ _ _ J _ _ _ _ E _ _ _ _ _
10. C _ _ _ _ T _ _ L _ _ _ I _ R _ _ _ _ T _ _ _ _
11. I K _ _ _ T _ _ _ M _ R _ _ _ _ L _ _ _ _
12. I _ T _ _ C _ _ _ _ O _ C _ _ _ _ I G _ _ _ _



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK **10th to 16th May 2015**

Loko's choice in life is simple: 'If I can't collect firewood, my children will die'.

Four times a week, in a remote corner of Ethiopia, Loko makes a back-breaking eight-hour trip to gather wood. It's a task she dreads, but she steels herself to do it because if she doesn't her children will starve. She prays to God as she walks. 'I ask him to change my life and lead us out of this,' she says.

Just £5 could give Loko a loan to start her own business buying and selling tea and coffee, freeing her from her desperate task and allowing her to spend more time caring for her family.

This Christian Aid Week, you can help transform the lives of women like Loko.

From 10-16 May, churches the length and breadth of Britain and Ireland will come together to pray, campaign and raise money to improve the lives of people like Loko.

Every year, 100,000 volunteers demonstrate God's love for the poor by taking part in house-to-house collections for Christian Aid. This fantastic witness is a chance to take the mission of the church into your community. Alternatively, maybe a 'one-off' special fund raising collection can be held. Look out for any announcement in the Weekly Notices.

FUN FOOD & FELLOWSHIP

FFF stands for Fun, Food & Fellowship and meets about six times a year. The group is open to anyone who wants to share in it's varied activities.

Our meetings for the next two months are as follows:

Friday, 17th April at 8.00pm: Meeting at Bromley Road to learn some new hymns from 'Singing the Faith'.

Saturday, 9th May: Walking to all the churches in the Circuit.

All are welcome to the above activities.

Judith Reep

A PRAYER

While on his travels, the following prayer caught Joe's eye.

*Heavenly Father, we commit ourselves
And those we love to your care this day,
Praying that you will guard us from
Danger and guide us in the right way.
Amen*

Whilst it's nice to be important,

It's much more important to be nice.

Sunday Services

Bromley Road

Clock House Road

*****Easter Day*****

5th April

(United Service at CHR)	8.00am	Revd Mike Cassidy Holy Communion
Revd Mike Cassidy Holy Communion	10.30am	(United Service at BR)

12th April

Mrs M Smith	10.30am	Revd Mike Cassidy Holy Communion
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19th April

Revd D Stanworth	10.30am	Revd Karen Jobson
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26th April

Mr J Holman	10.30am	Ms A Driscoll
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3rd May

Revd Mike Cassidy Holy Communion	10.30am	Mr J Morley
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10th May

Dr C Timehin	10.30am	Mr R Baker
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17th May

*****Church Anniversary & Gift Day*****

(United Service at CHR)	10.30am	Revd Mike Cassidy Holy Communion
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24th May

Major C Kent	10.30am	(United Service at BR)
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31 May

Mr D Lemmon	10.30am	Mr D Dingley
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USEFUL CONTACTS

Beckenham Methodist Church

(Registered Charity No. 1138006)

Bromley Road Church BR3 5JE & Clockhouse Road Church BR3 4JP
0208 650 2763 0208 663 6149

Minister in Charge: Revd Mike Cassidy 8249 8592 or 07473 827774

Stewards: Jenny Nichols (Senior) 8460 6713 Christine Handel 8658 1381
Irene Antwi 8778 2124 Comfort Lawson 3539 4944
Sheila Priestman 8460 1091 Barry Stewart 8325 8861

Church Council Secretary: Sheila Priestman 8460 1091

Church Treasurer: Mark Cheesman 8249 5522

Junior Church Co-ordinator: Mary Cook 8656 2815

Flower Secretaries: BR - Margaret Hazlewood 7733 6116
CHR - Irene Antwi 8778 2124

Property Co-ordinator: David Jackson 8656 2815

Property Stewards: Colin Wilson 8464 3768
David Jackson 8656 2815
Barry Stewart 8325 8861
Roy Charles 8402 5562
Graham McLeod 8325 5243

Room Booking Officers: BR David Jackson 8656 2815
CHR Graham McLeod 8325 5243

Brownies: Carole Dewar 8650 9027
Guides: Karen Millican 8650 6248
Beavers: Mandy Sarhane 8650 4822
Cubs: Steve Shirley 8650 0330
Scouts: Gordon Wilson 8650 1035

Web Site: <http://www.beckenhammethodistchurch.co.uk>