

THE INDICATOR

Beckenham Methodist Church

November, December 2015

January 2016



*Go forward into the
New Year
with GOD*

The Church's Healing Ministry

November is the season of remembrance. The leaves fall from the trees, the days get colder, the nights lengthen and before the rush of Christmas it is also perhaps a season of reflection. So let us reflect this month on healing.

I have had much cause to reflect on the meaning of God's healing these last few months.

Healing is something we all long for. Healing is something God longs for. Christianity takes disease and healing very seriously. For some other religions disease is something to be borne. But for the Christian it is something to be overcome and eradicated. Jesus was moved to compassion by suffering and was anxious to relieve the misery it entails, and we as his body, have inherited that concern.

All healing is of God

There is no distinction between what we might term the world's approach, medical science, and 'divine' healing; they are one, for this is God's world and there is nothing outside God's domain. Our whole ministry is one of healing, and the ministry of healing is as much part of the Christian life as the ministry of preaching or service. Every act of Christian worship celebrates the grace of God who desires wholeness of body, mind and spirit for all people. In this sense every service is a healing service – singing, praise, prayer, quiet, confession.

One well known healing story of Jesus that we can read (Mark 5. 25 – 34) is the story of the woman who had been suffering from haemorrhages for twelve years. Jesus heals the woman of her bleeding but more than that. Jesus, surrounded by crowds of people, felt the woman's touch. He stops and turns and faces the woman. Jesus gives his full attention to her and she 'tells him everything'. After all her troubles, the hurt and isolation she had experienced for twelve years, the woman pours out her soul to Jesus. This was much more than a story of physical healing.

Jesus was keen to stress that even greater than his concern to heal our physical suffering was his concern to heal our souls.

Some illness has a deep emotional or even spiritual element, and through prayer God can and does minister. But most appear just physical – God responds to these by providing benefits of modern medicine and by providing the emotional and spiritual strength we need to bear the illnesses we cannot cure.

We may be comforted in recalling the apostle Paul, having pleaded to no avail for the thorn in his flesh to be removed, found sufficient in God's grace (2 Corinthians 12.9). Healing does not always include a cure: it is ultimately something more than that.

Lourdes: A place of spiritual restoration

Every year, millions of pilgrims travel to Lourdes seeking healing. It was here that in 1858, the Virgin Mary allegedly appeared before 14 year-old Bernadette Soubirous whilst she was out gathering firewood. Since then Lourdes has been associated with healing, and the grotto used to be adorned with the crutches and walking sticks that people had cast aside.

However, last year of the 6 million pilgrims who visited Lourdes only 64,000 were ill or disabled. People seek something else. The devout believe that miracles happen. When they occur they are one sign of God's work in the world. But much more happens in Lourdes in people's souls than happens in their bodies. Many gain a sense of peace; others a strengthening faith; some conversion; others a return to faith.

Behind the grotto is a small statue of a blind man holding a cross. It was erected by an Italian woman to commemorate her conversion at the grotto. The words at the base of the statue say:

Cont'd

**Loving God, in whom all things are made whole,
you sent your Son our Saviour
to heal a broken world.
Visit us with your salvation,
that we may be blessed in body, mind and spirit,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**



Barbara Calvert 15th October 2015

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

This year we will be holding a Christmas lunch after the All Age Nativity service on **13th December** at Bromley Road. Everyone is invited but tickets will be sold in advance at £5 for adults and £2.50 for children, to cater for the right number.

Contributions of prepared vegetables will also be requested from some willing people.

Watch in the Weekly Notices for further information.

CHRISTMAS POST BOXES

There will be post boxes at both sites from Advent Sunday to **December 13th** inclusive for your Church family cards, which will be available after the afternoon carol service on **20th December** at Bromley Road along with refreshments.

Please remember to only post cards to those people who are likely to be present. The Stewards / Pastoral Visitors cannot be responsible for seeing that cards left behind get to people all over the area and beyond!

If you wish to send one card to the whole church family, please give it to one of the Stewards to put on display. We suggest that instead of the cost of many cards and postage you include a donation to **Mission Alongside the Poor**.

If you have a query about anything that is happening, please speak to me or one of the Stewards

Jenny Nichols

Local Clothes Bank Update

As reported in the last 'Indicator' the Clothes Bank at Holy Trinity Church, Lennard Road, Penge, is up and running twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Saturday mornings between 10 - 12 noon. It is staffed by volunteers from local churches and the goods, too, are donated by the churches including our own church.

We are playing our part in supporting this venture in donating goods and time and it is really worthwhile. A big thank you to all who remember 'that box' in the New Room by giving the following:

- Clothing:** Gents' new socks and new boxer shorts
Gents' new/good-as-new shoes, particularly trainers
Gents' new/good-as-new jeans, jackets, 'T' shirts, shirts, trousers.
- Toiletries:** Soap, flannels, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, disposable razors, deodorant, towels and toilet rolls.

There still does not appear to be much of a need on Saturday mornings for Ladies and Children's goods at present but this could change - watch this space!

Colin & Valerie Wilson

GOD TO THE RESCUE?

Some years ago there were some terrible floods in California and the rescue services were stretched to the limit. One man escaped the floods by climbing to the top of a street lamp, where he sat awaiting rescue. A coastguard launch passed by and offered to take him on board, but the man declined and shouted back: "God has promised to save me"! A man in a rubber dinghy passed by, but he got the same response.

The waters still rose, and a rescue helicopter hovered overhead, and a crewman was winched down to urge the man to strap himself into the rescue harness, but, once again, the man shouted that he was trusting God, who had promised to save him. A short time later, the waters rose above the lamppost, and tragically, the man was drowned. He found himself in heaven and he complained to God, "I thought that you promised to save me"! God replied, "I don't understand it, I sent you two boats and a helicopter".

TC's NEWS

Staffing: At present we are just about managing to keep our Community Café open, Monday—Friday, 10.30am - 2.30pm. However, we really would be glad of more Volunteers on a regular basis as has been said many times before, or those who could stand in for holidays and emergencies.

The latter will be particularly relevant on **Mondays 12.30 - 2.30pm and Wednesdays 10.30 - 12.30pm for the whole of January and February 2016** while one of our Volunteers is on holiday. Do please come forward if you can help us.

Cake Making: After many years of regularly providing TC's with delicious home-made cakes, Christine Gaskin, regrettably, will be giving up at Christmas. 'Thank you very much' Christine for your loyal support enabling so many people to enjoy slices of your cakes.

Bird Nuts & Bird Seeds: There are now very few bags left so if you want to buy some please do so soon!

'Thank You' Party: This will be held in February and invitations will be sent out to all TC's Volunteers, and those who help in various ways, in due course.

Finally, my sincere thanks to all our Volunteers for your loyalty and to all our customers for your support. Over the past 16 years we have been able to donate to many excellent causes locally, nationally and internationally.

Valerie Wilson

‘FROM STONES TO WATER’ - the 3rd Borehole

Daphne Brown of St Neots Methodist Church (our contact in connection with this Project) writes:

“Just saying ‘thank you’ seems quite inadequate to express my appreciation for the very generous donation of £4,500.00 which your church has sent for my water project in Zimbabwe. This money has been sent to Bondolfi, a little mission in the Masvingo region.

The Sister in charge will immediately organize a local reliable company to drill a borehole in a village where at present the women are having to walk 2 to 4 kilometres, about 2 to 3 miles, to fetch water, carrying it in a bucket. Because they need water for washing, drinking and watering their vegetables they sometimes do this journey twice a day; there are about 44 families living here.

God has really answered their prayers through your help. I contacted Bondolfi last month to see if they knew of a particular need for water. The Sister immediately told me about this village where the women had started coming to the mission asking for water. It is the little mission where I stayed when I first went out to Zimbabwe in 1999. At that time I was able to provide several boreholes in this area which is very dry and often suffers from drought. Then in 2007 they could no longer get diesel and I had to transfer my work to Harare where diesel was still available.”

...and so Daphne continues “A reliable drilling company is now working in the area and Sister Otilia has sent me a detailed invoice for drilling this particular borehole. Because it is so remote the amount was much more than I usually pay in Harare the reason being the roads, if any, are few and the distances to travel much further.

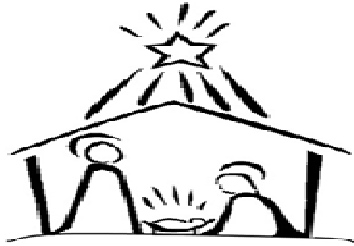
Sister Otilia will inform us when the work has been completed and we may, in time, get some photos.

Thank you again to all of you who have given time, thought and prayer to the raising of this money, God bless you.” Daphne.

God does, indeed, answer prayer

Valerie Wilson

Christmas Coffee Morning



at The Manse

10.30 - 12.30

Saturday 5th December

38 Bramerton Road

Beckenham

BR3 3PB

Donations
invited



We believe in life before death

Christmas appeal 2015

Bring about life changing change this
Christmas

'My soul glorifies the Lord' Luke 1.46

Everyone welcome!



The most popular living composer of choral music on the other side of the Atlantic is Morten Lauridsen and the SLS are pleased to be promoting his work here in England. Those who listen to Classic FM will have heard 'O Magnum Mysterium' and two recent

concerts by the SLS have featured 'Sure on this Shining Night'. 'Lux Aeterna' is a longer cantata which includes similarly beautiful music and has itself been featured recently on Classic FM.

The concert to be given at Penge Congregational Church on Saturday 14th November at 7.45pm will be celebrating the centenary of their fine 3 manual Lewis Organ. Each of the pieces in the programme will show off the great versatility of the organ as an accompaniment to the choir but there will also be two solo pieces played by David Thorne, the choir's regular accompanist and by their conductor Julian Collings who was formerly an organ scholar at Christ's College, Cambridge. David will play Albinoni's Adagio which was probably not written by Albinoni and Julian will play Vierne's Carillon de Westminster, an effusive fantasia on the chimes of Big Ben.

John Tavener converted to the Greek Orthodox Church in 1977 and much of his later music was in the Orthodox style as is the ethereal, reverent and mystical Funeral Ikos to be performed in the first half of the concert along with Arvo Pärt's Salve Regina. Brahms's Geistliches Lied will complete the programme and although readers may not necessarily be familiar with all the works, or even all the composers, the concert is sure to be a magical experience in the fine setting of Penge Congregational Church. Do come and be surprised.

Followers of the Beckenham Ladies Choir will be familiar with the venue and the SLS are pleased that since the closing of that choir last year, several of their members have come to join the ranks of the SLS. Tickets/Programmes for the concert are priced £11 (children 8 – 18 years, free) and are available in TCs as well as from choir members including Carol, Sheila, Comfort, Mary and David.

Pilgrimage to Greece in the Steps of St Paul with Revd. Bill Bowman and Mrs Marion Bowman

We are planning a pilgrimage to Greece from **5-13 Sept 2016**.

We shall visit places associated with Paul in Greece from Neapolis (Kavala) where the gospel was first brought to Europe, down through Philippi, Thessalonica, Corinth and Athens where Paul preached about “The Unknown God” on Mars Hill. We shall also visit the amazing Meteora monasteries and the site of the oracle at Delphi, as well as an optional day cruise round three islands in the Aegean.

The basic cost of the tour is £1,645 and we shall be travelling with McCabe’s Pilgrimages and flying from Gatwick.

We would like to give our friends in Churches Together in Beckenham an early opportunity to book. Please contact us if you would like more information and a booking form and brochure.

Bill and Marion Bowman
Elmers End Free Church (United Reformed)
Goddard Road
Beckenham BR3 4AD

Tel: 020 8777 1150

Email: wfbowman@hotmail.com

Open Door

Open Door on Mondays has a wide variety of topics. Recently members brought favourite music items. Joe's choice was piano playing by Charlie Kunz (remember him?) Feet tapping prompted Joe and Sybil to have a thirty second dance, which brought smiles to the group.

There are often talks, films, discussions etc. Why not give it a try at 2pm on Mondays, with the inevitable cuppa?

Joe Young

“Methodist Heritage News”

Copies of the Autumn 2015 edition are available on the rack in the New Room at Bromley Road and at Clock House Road. This includes a report on developments at the museum at Wesley's Chapel, City Road.

The Leprosy Mission

A reminder that I still collect postage stamps (British and foreign) for the Leprosy Mission and I hope there will be a good response over the Christmas period. If you can cut them from the envelope with a 1/4" border it would be appreciated. The Mission also collects used and unused post-cards, old notes and coins, cigarette cards and medals, which I will happily receive on their behalf. There is a box in the New Room for your donations. Last year £127,341 was raised in this way.

Ena Hamblyn



BECKENHAM QUILTERS EXHIBITION

Saturday 14th November 2015 10am to 4pm

**Beckenham Methodist Church, Bromley Road, Beckenham
BR3 5JE**

Entrance: £3 including catalogue
Children and students free

Traders

Refreshments

www.beckenhamquilters.org

Prepare to be amazed by the quality of their work displayed in the splendid setting of our church.

The earth, wind and fire banners hanging behind the lectern were donated to the church, as was the beautiful poppy quilt which is on display on Remembrance Sundays.

OPEN DOOR

**Mondays 2 to 3.30pm in the Wesley Lounge at
Bromley Road.**

November 2015

- | | |
|------|--|
| 2nd | Members' afternoon |
| 9th | Deacon Pat Soule |
| 16th | Telling the story of Advent and Christmas through Art posters led by Jenny Nichols |
| 23rd | Revd Andrew Jones |
| 30th | Revd Barbara Calvert |

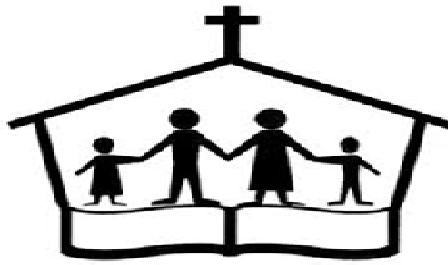
December 2015

- | | |
|-----|---------------------------|
| 7th | Natural Resources - Light |
|-----|---------------------------|

CHRISTMAS BREAK

January 2016

- | | |
|------|-----------------------------------|
| 11th | Restart with a Members' afternoon |
| 18th | TBA |
| 25th | TBA |



NEWS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY

Thanks to all who helped with Harvest weekend - such beautiful decorations in the Church and generous gifts for Deptford Mission - also to those who prepared and cleared the lunch.

We are sad to report the passing of Mrs Betty Ramsden, a former member of our church family who, although of mature years, attended worship as regularly as possible and supported various activities within the life of the church. A Service of Thanksgiving is being planned for early December at Bromley Road.

We are thinking of Alan and June Durston & Kevin at this difficult time.

We continue to remember all our young people whether they are at school, further education, university, working away from home or job seeking and we wish them all well in their endeavours. We wish Holly Everest a happy 18th Birthday in December.

Very recently we spoke to one of our former church members, Pam Plumridge who along with John moved to the Droitwich area. Sadly John died a few years ago. Pam now attends Droitwich Methodist Church where she is a Church Steward and very much involved in the church life there. Pam asked that we pass on her kind regards to all. Pam is still into sewing, quilting and knitting for her two grandchildren. Pam was one of the founding members of Beckenham Quilters and was pleased to learn that their bi-annual exhibition at Bromley Road still continues.

[*Colin & Valerie Wilson*]

MEN'S FORUM - PROGRAMME 2015

Our Men's Forum meets monthly on the second Saturday at our Clockhouse Road 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 at their Thursday Lunch Time Services.

- | | | |
|--------|-------|---|
| Nov 5 | 11.00 | We will be arranging a visit to The Methodist Museum at Wesley's Chapel |
| Nov 14 | 11.00 | My experiences in Indonesia, an address by Peter Reardon |
| Nov 22 | 12.15 | Bromley Methodist Church followed by lunch at The Chancery, Beckenham. |
| Dec 12 | 11.00 | Christmas activities & decorating the tree at Clockhouse Road Church |
| Dec 17 | 1.00 | Our Christmas Lunch at "The Warren", West Wickham Common. We extend an invitation to all to join us for what has proved to be a very enjoyable social occasion. |

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. New members are always welcome. There are a variety of speakers and meetings finish with a cup of tea and a chat.

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 11th November | Dementia Bromley - Christine Gallaher Dementia Skills Manager |
| 25th November | The History of our Kent Children's Hospice Patricia White - Demelza House |
| 9th December | Journey to Bethlehem - Alison Driscoll |
| 13th January 2016 | Anniversaries - Stella Etheridge |
| 27th January | Cryptic London - John Clouston |

Fun Food and Fellowship

FFF stands for Fun, Food and Fellowship and meets about six times a year. The group is open to anyone who wants to share in any of the varied activities. All are welcome.

Judith Reep

Mission and Outreach

We will be holding a **HOME MADE & CRAFT GOODS SALE** on **Sunday 22nd November** after the morning service in aid of **out Church's Charity of the Year - The LATCH PROJECT** in Bromley - 'A Christian response to single homelessness'.



20th ANNIVERSARY

Please support this cause by generous donation of items for sale and/or the purchase of items on the day.


BROMLEY METHODIST CHURCH

THURSDAY SERVICES at 12.15 pm

All are welcome to worship at BMC's lunchtime service, held every week in the lovely Vine Chapel from 12.15 to 12.45 pm.

Preachers

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 5 Nov. | Revd Barbara Calvert |
| 12 Nov. | Revd John Bown Former minister, Bromley Methodist Church |
| 19 Nov. | Revd Karen George |
| 26 Nov. | John Morley Lay reader, St Luke's, Bromley Common |
| 3 Dec. | John Cox Lay Reader at St Mary's, College Road |
| 10 Dec. | Revd Karen George Holy Communion |
| 17 Dec. | Revd Barbara Calvert |
| 24 Dec. | No service |
| 31 Dec. | No service |
| 7 Jan. [2016] | Major Cliff Kent |
| 14 Jan. | TBA |



Church Flowers - Bromley Road

| | | |
|---------------------|------|-----------------------|
| November | 1st | Margaret Hazlewood |
| | 8th | REMEMBRANCE |
| | 15th | Diane Chorley |
| | 22nd | Sheila Priestman |
| | 29th | June & Alan Durston |
| December | 6th | Christine Gaskin |
| | 13th | Gretta Blacknell |
| | 20th | Valerie Wilson |
| | 27th | Circuit Service at WW |
| January 2016 | 3rd | Barry Stewart |
| | 10th | Joy Huggett |
| | 17th | Brenda Hotham |
| | 24th | TBA |
| | 31st | Sybil Cook |

Church Flowers - Clockhouse Road

| | | |
|-------------------------|------|------------------------|
| November | 1st | Irene Antwi |
| | 8th | Venus Leon |
| | 15th | Mary Sawyer |
| | 22nd | Lum & Roy |
| | 29th | Maureen Bull |
| December | 6th | Irene Antwi |
| | 13th | Venus Leon |
| | 20th | Mary Sawyer |
| | 27th | Circuit Service at WW |
| January 2016 | 3rd | Covenant Service at BR |
| | 10th | Lum & Roy |
| | 17th | Maureen Bull |
| | 24th | Irene Antwi |
| | 31st | Venus Leon |

Dates for Christmas and the New Year

Sunday 29th November 10.30am Advent Sunday
Lighting of first Advent candle

Saturday 5th December 10.30 - 12.30
Coffee Morning at the manse [See page 9]

Saturday 5th December pm
Beckenham Lights procession - details later

Sunday 13th December BR All age Gift / Nativity service
Deptford Mission will be pleased to receive small toys /
games for children and gifts for the elderly

Sunday 20th December
10.30am CHR All age Gift / Nativity
4pm joint candlelight carol service and refreshments BR

Thursday 24th December 11.15pm BR
Christmas Eve Holy Communion by candlelight

Friday 25th December 10.30am
All age joint Christmas Day service BR

Sunday 27th December 10.30am
Circuit service at West Wickham

Thursday 31st December 11pm
Watchnight service at Clock House Road

Sunday 3rd January 2016 10.30am
United Covenant service at BR

Sunday Services

Bromley Road

Clockhouse Road

6 December

Revd Derek Stanworth 10.30am Deacon Laura MacBean
Holy Communion

13 December

Revd Barbara Calvert 10.30am Mr C Sandy
All age Nativity

20 December

Mr M Tinson 10.30am Revd Barbara Calvert
All age Nativity

27 December

Circuit service at West Wickham - 10.30

3 January 2016

Revd Barbara Calvert 10.30am
United Covenant service of Holy Communion at BR

10 January

Mrs C Messenger 10.30am Mrs M Smith

17 January

Deacon Laura MacBean 10.30am Mr D Lemmon

24 January

Mr J Morley 10.30am Mr M Tinson

31 January

Mr D Lemmon 10.30am Mrs M Bull

Sunday Services

Bromley Road

Clockhouse Road

7 February

Revd Barbara Calvert
Holy Communion

10.30am

Mr R Baker

14 February

Major C Kent

10.30am

Ms A Driscoll

21 February

Dr C Timehin

10.30am

Revd Barbara Calvert
Holy Communion

28 February

Revd Barbara Calvert

10.30am

Mr J Holman

Please send articles for the next Indicator, covering February and March 2016, to

**Jenny Nichols - e-mail:- jenny.nichols1@ntlworld.com or
Christine Handel - e-mail:- christine.handel@ntlworld.com
by Sunday 17th January 2016 at the latest for distribution
on Sunday 31 January 2016.**

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

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. Barbara Calvert 8658 6484

Stewards: Jenny Nichols (Senior) 8460 6713

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>

Circuit Web Site: <http://bromleymethodistcircuit.org.uk/>